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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Explains Deportations Stand to UN

NC2212172892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid sent a message today to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, explaining the Arab viewpoint on the Israeli decision to deport 418 Palestinians outside the occupied territories and the serious repercussions that decision will have on the Middle East region in general and the peace talks in particular.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, 'Abd-al-Majid said the message expresses support for UN Security Council Resolution 794 on returning the deportees to their homes. The messages stresses the need to work for sending a UN secretary general special envoy to the region and to adopt the necessary measures to provide international protection to the Palestinian people in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Geneva agreement.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid sent a similar message to the chairman of the UN Security Council, in which he emphasized that the deportation is a very harsh, oppressive measure that constitutes a serious challenge to international law, UN resolutions, the 1949 Geneva agreement, and the Human Rights Charter.

The Arab League secretary general reffered to the serious repercussions of the policy of emptying the occupied territories of their inhabitants, and the subsequent harm it will inflict on the ongoing peace process.

In his message, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Israeli practices and crimes once again show the pressing need to provide international protection to the Palestinian individuals who are under occupation control. He also stressed the need to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 681 which calls for deploying international observers in the occupied territories and for sending a UN secretary general special envoy to the region to supervise the implementation of that resolution.

Further on Gulf Cooperation Council Summit

3d Working Session Begins

JN2212193892 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH)—The third working session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders' summit began this evening.

During this session, the GCC leaders will continue to discuss economic cooperation between the GCC member states and other countries. The leaders will also discuss political issues of interest to the member states.

Foreign Ministers Hold Session

JN2312103392 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states held a working session this morning during which they prepared recommendations concerning issues referred to them by the GCC leaders and which their majesties and highnesses the leaders will discuss during the working session which will precede the concluding session this afternoon.

The GCC finance ministers participated in the foreign ministers meeting.

UAE Foreign Minister Comments

JN2213203792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0313 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Dec (WAKH)—Emirian Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah has stated that the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states have completed their discussion of the political topics listed on their agenda.

At a news conference held at Hilton Hotel in Abu Dhabi this evening, 'Abdallah said that they discussed four political topics, namely, Iraq and Kuwait and Security Council resolutions on them, the GCC member states' relations with Iran, the GCC member states' relationship with the cause of peace in the Middle East, and the Damascus Declaration.

'Abdallah said that during their third session this evening, the GCC leaders would continue their discussion of the economic issues listed on the agenda, pointing out that they had already covered a large part.

Rashid 'Abdallah mentioned the economic aspects the GCC leaders will discuss during session, namely, unifying customs tariff toward the outer world, certificates for exporting foodstuffs, and patents.

He said that the Emirian proposal to appoint Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi as a GCC secretary general will be submitted to the summit during this evening's session.

Regarding fund for supporting Lebanon, he stressed the GCC member states' readiness to be among the first contributors to this fund when it is established, explaining that the GCC member states have a development program for the Arab countries and that Lebanon will receive considerable support and assistance, as the case has always been with Lebanon.

Regarding the Arab Development Fund, he said that the fund was approved by the previous summit and that the GCC member states' contributions to the fund will be defined and approved during this evening's session.

On the Damascus Declaration, Rashid 'Abdallah affirmed that the declaration still exists and is continuing, despite rumors, pointing out that the eight states

had agreed to hold a meeting every six months of the foreign ministers to coordinate in political areas.

He said that the Damascus Declaration states also agreed to hold a meeting of the ministers of economy in the near future in order to supplement the economic side related to this [words indistinct]. On the security and military issue, these states agreed that each state will enjoy absolute freedom regarding bilateral cooperation, pointing out that this will not prevent cooperation other than the bilateral one in the military and security areas.

Regarding the Kuwaiti captives, Rashid 'Abdallah affirmed that they are captives of all the Arabs, voicing hope that they will be released to return to their families.

He stressed that the GCC member states are making every effort and that there are international resolutions on the need to release these captives.

In this regard, he expressed his appreciation for the efforts the Arab League secretary general is exerting, pointing out that a personal representative of the secretary general is following the issue of the captives, which clear indicates the secretary general's concern about this just issue.

Regarding the Peninsula Shield Forces, the Emirian foreign minister asserted that these forces will be reinforced so that we can take pride in them, just as we are taking pride in the GCC member states' military cooperation for liberating Kuwait.

He explained that military cooperation among the GCC member states was not restricted to the Peninsula Shield Forces during the Kuwait's liberation battle because all states acted for that purpose.

Rashid 'Abdallah expressed happiness over the solution of the Qatari-Ba... dispute and praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's efforts in this regard. He said: As Arabs, we have found a new mechanism to solve our differences represented by our affiliation and solidarity with one another. 'Abdallah added: From this premise, we always call for solving disputes in such an Arab spirit. He described these differences as a cloud which has passed by.

On the [Gulf Cooperation Council] GCC ties with Iran, 'Abdallah stressed the eagerness of the GCC states to establish good neighborly relations with this state. He noted that the Council's states practiced such a policy and were tasting its fruits, adding that such cooperation requires understanding and stability.

'Abdallah said that in every meeting and at this particular meeting, the Council's states call for establishing good neighborly relations with Iran based on the principles of cooperation.

On the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over the three islands, 'Abdallah accused Iran of violating the agreement signed between the two countries in this regard, affirming that his country is endeavoring, through international legitimacy, to regain the islands through well-established international means.

On the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, 'Abdallah affirmed the GCC support for the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in all world forums, invoking in this regard the resolutions of the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers' meeting held in Jeddah recently. In this regard, 'Abdallah said that the GCC states are of the view that Bosnia-Herzegovina should have a government, recognized by all states and the United Nations, and which would have the right of self-defense like any other state with its own army and forces.

On the call for tolerance issued by the UAE president, 'Abdallah said that tolerance and solidarity are among the traits of His Highness Shaykh Zayid who believes that the Arabs will not realize their aspirations unless they unify their ranks.

'Abdallah expressed hope that this call would fall on responsive ears and enlightened hearts believing that what happened in the region was a disaster for which we are all responsible. He said: We will continue to suffer from the disaster of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait for many years and it will continue to pain every Arab, especially the officials who witnessed the bloodshed and rising flames, and who were unable to stop Iraq from doing what it did.

'Abdallah praised Egypt's great role in liberating Kuwait and said this role emanates from its care for pan-Arab security.

On the Palestinian cause and the Middle East problem, the UAE foreign minister affirmed the Council's support for this cause and said that the GCC states give this cause their special attention. He also affirmed the Council's support for the Palestinian people in their endeavors to regain their full rights and establish their independent state in Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital. He also affirmed the GCC states' support for all the Arab states in their efforts to regain their occupied territories from Israel.

Regarding the world changes, 'Abdallah said that the GCC states viewed these changes with an open eye, adding that the GCC relations are not based on politicization but on cooperation and joint interests, especially concerning security, stability, and the economic and humanitarian aspects.

On the destruction of the Ayodhya Mosque by extremist Hindus, 'Abdallah said that the GCC condemned [word indistinct], noting the call for holding an Islamic meeting in this regard.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Israeli 'Terrorist Measures'

LD1912192292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Dec (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has strongly condemned the new arbitrary Israeli measures to exile 418 Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories as part of the Israeli Government's escalation of its repressive and terrorist measures against the sons of our Palestinian people and their blessed intifadah.

In a statement issued by ICO Secretary General Hamid Algabid, the organization states that by this measure the Israeli Government is violating all laws and international conventions, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention which forbids an occupying force to expel the population from its land.

The ICO declares that this measure directs a fatal blow to the peace process and threatens its continuation. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser on Peace Process, Deportation

Sha'th: 'Arafat to Visit Cairo

NC2212144792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, has said that president 'Arafat will visit Cairo within the next few hours. He said that 'Arafat will hold consultations with President Husni Mubarak concerning the steps that should be taken following the deportation of over 418 Palestinians from the occupied territories. Dr. Sha'th said that the two leaders will also discuss the steps required to confront what other possible deportations Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin might initiate.

The Palestinian official said that in view of his appreciation for the roles being played by President Mubarak and Egypt, president 'Arafat will ask President Mubarak to convince Israel to suspend the deportation decision.

In statements upon his arrival from Tunis today, 'Arafat's political adviser said that the cordon states' foreign ministers will meet in Cairo within the next few days at Palestine's invitation. He said this invitation has been accepted by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. This meeting, Dr. Sha'th added, will discuss ways to confront everything that could threaten the peace process, particularly after Israel's decision to deport Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In his statements, Dr. Sha'th said that if the Arabs want the peace process to continue, they must coordinate efforts and carry out a unified collective act to stop the Israeli crime in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution, which calls for an immediate return of the deportees. He said that the Israeli prime minister has embarked on this step to deal a painful blow to the peace process. Therefore, it is difficult to negotiate with a prime minister who is deporting Palestinian citizens and using the peace symbol as a cover, Dr. Sha'th added.

On the possibility that the Israeli supreme court might suspend the deportation order, Sha'th said: We do not want to get into the question of internal procedures that certain Israeli political or judicial parties might announce one way or another. We do not attach hope to the rulings of Israeli courts, because past experience with these courts has taught us that when it comes to matters concerning Palestinians, they side with their government, whether justly or unjustly.

Asked if the Palestinian delegation held meetings with officials from the new U.S. Administration during its stay in Washington, Sha'th said: We held several contacts with a number of figures close to Clinton, particularly following the deportation order, when Clinton made his first statement on this issue. His statement was unacceptable, because he linked the deportation to the murder of the Israeli policeman and treated the deportation as a secondary issue. Following contacts with former President Carter, who is highly regarded by Clinton, however, the latter made another statement correcting his earlier one.

On the recent meetings of the Palestinian factions in Tunis, Sha'th said: The meetings were important. We discussed our future course and reviewed the results of the last round of peace talks. Emphasis was placed on devising the necessary plans to cope with the deportation issue as well as the subsequent massacre that took place in Gaza on Saturday [19 December]. This massacre shows that Rabin continues to pursue an iron-fist policy as well as all means of violating human rights, which marked his tenure as defense minister and which he is reverting to at this stage.

On the future of relations between the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] following the latter's agreement to attend, for the first time, the meeting of Palestinian factions, Sha'th said: We have invited Hamas more than once previously, but it refused to attend the meetings for excuses that we deemed unacceptable. We consider ourselves responsible for the Palestinian people, regardless of their inclinations or organizations.

Asked if the PLO would accept the presence of Hamas representatives in the Palestine National Council [PNC], Sha'th said: We welcome the presence of Hamas representatives in the PNC as well as in all the Palestinian committees, because it is a Palestinian faction that plays a patriotic role in resisting occupation.

No 'Final Decision' on Talks

TA2312114092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Dan Avidan]

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, told DAVAR last night that the PLO has not yet reached a final decision to terminate the political negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. He noted that the decision to suspend the talks in the wake of the deportation of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men was temporary and that the PLO would await developments on this question and would then decide whether to resume or to terminate the negotiations with Israel.

Sha'th called on the Israeli Government to return the deportees to their homes, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 799, in order to pave the way for the resumption of the talks. Otherwise, he said, the PLO will ask the Security Council to take operational measures against Israel as it did with regard to Yugoslavia, Somalia, etc. Dr. Sha'th said he is extremely disappointed with last night's ruling by the High Court of Justice to endorse the deportation orders. "We had very much hoped that the ruling of the High Court of Justice would rectify the serious and mistaken government decision on a massive deportation; however, it seems that the court cannot rectify erroneous decisions that deal a lethal blow to the peace process," Sha'th said. At the same time, he noted that, in principle, the Palestinians remain committed to the peace process, whose resumption depends on new Israeli initiatives.

Sha'th argued that the deportations and the court ruling are incompatible with international law and called on the Israeli Government to bring Palestinian lawbreakers to trial and sentence them to prison but to abstain from deportation, which is an illegal action. "I am a great advocate of the peace process; I did not believe the Rabin government and the Meretz ministers would adopt such a measure," he said. He asserted that the PLO has not adopted any decision to call off contacts between Palestinians and Meretz members and added that the PLO leadership would discuss the entire issue in due course in light of the developments. Sha'th praised Minister David Libai for objecting to the decision on the deportations.

As for the meeting scheduled for today in Tunis between the PLO leadership and Hamas representatives, Sha'th said the PLO welcomes the meeting because this will be the first time that Hamas agrees to take part in talks with any PLO institution in a bid to be integrated into it. Asked whether the meeting will not ease the way for a radicalization of the PLO's positions under the influence of Hamas, which demands that the political negotiations be terminated, Sha'th said that if it wants to be integrated into the organization, Hamas will have to abide by the decision of the majority of the PLO's institutions, which support negotiations.

Yasir 'Arafat Sends Message to GCC Summit

LD2212183992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today sent an important message to the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders on the occasion of their summit. The message expressed hoped that they will achieve their objectives of progress, prosperity, and the restoration of Arab solidarity.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed in his message that the summit is being held at a time when our Palestinian people are going through decisive circumstances and events as a result of the Rabin government's escalation of its iron fist policies. The latest instance of this is the crime of deporting 418 Palestinian citizens, followed by the massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the town of Khan Yunis.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar explained that the continuous crimes committed by the occupation forces threaten to completely wreck the peace process, and pointed out that he highly appreciates the resolutions and stances of the international community that have condemned the crimes of the occupation which led to the deterioration of conditions in our occupied land.

In his message Brother President Abu-'Ammar called on the GCC leaders to make the appropriate decisions to end the suffering of our Palestinian people under the yoke of the occupation and to extend a helping hand to them, because the Zionist enemy aims to evict the struggling Palestinian people from this sacred land.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar stressed that our Palestinian people will diligently continue their struggle and that their intifadah will carry on without ceasing, to bring a just peace to the land of peace. Peace, he said, can only be achieved once our people have recovered their rights and established their independent state.

Delegation Head on Deportations, Peace Talks

TA2212154192 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 22 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Dr. Hayda 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Quds Press correspondent 'Imad 'Abd-al-Rahman in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Rahman] What is your stance regarding Israel's decision to deport 415 Palestinians and how do you assess the suggestion that the deportation action might serve Israel's plan to implement autonomy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that my stance regarding the deportation has become clear. We protested the decision, which contravenes international law and human rights principles, and condemned it in practice. We boycotted the last session of the talks in protest of this decision.

As for the suggestion that the deportation decision constitutes preparation for autonomy, I do not know what this means. We were preoccupied with the talks for 13 months and did not achieve anything because of the Israeli position, which we reject.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Is Israel's intention to impose autonomy?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not believe that the Palestinian people are in a situation whereby they will accept autonomy as something separate. We were negotiating over a transitional period in preparation to another period in which we would achieve our basic rights. No one accepts autonomy as such and no one can impose anything on us.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What is your position on the recent developments, especially the escalation of violence by Israel as happened in the Khan Yunis incidents last Saturday?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Like all Palestinians we present this Israeli commitment. The entire world is protesting as well. Is it not clear to everyone that we are protesting against this situation?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Should Israel persist in its decision on deporting the Palestinians, what is your stance regarding the continuation of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not believe that we will return to the negotiating table if Israel does not back down from the deportation decision. This is the current stance.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Should we interpret this as a halt to the talks or merely a temporary suspension?

['Abd-al-Shafi] As long as Israel does not back down we will not go to the negotiating table. However, if it backs down from the deportation decision there will be other factors that will have to be taken into consideration to determine the conduct of the Palestinian side. Naturally, there is a political authority—the Palestinian leadership—and there is the Palestinian public whose views should be taken into account.

['Abd-al-Rahman] In your opinion what is the appropriate way out of this crisis, which has placed all the parties in a quandary?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The way out—and I have said this from the outset, since we entered the peace process and before that—is, above all, for the Palestinian people to unify and achieve the required national unity. This is something that I have frequently repeated and which I call "organizing the Palestinian house."

In my view this is the most important step that must be taken, and at various levels. Afterward, if the world wishes to adhere to the foundations of law, it should put an end to Israel's commitments and its violations of international law and human rights principles. Or the world can become a chaotic place based on the subjugation of international law by the powerful.

['Abd-al-Rahman] What is the red line at which the Palestinian delegation might withdraw from the negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In any event, the delegation has now stopped negotiating and has made clear that there will be no possibility for the delegation's return unless Israel backs down from its decision. After that everything will depend on whether there is any justification to go back to the talks.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Do you have anything to add to what you said?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, but we are living in an emotional world. Who would have imagined that the rash act—the murder of Israeli officer Nissim Toledano—would give Israel the pretext to perpetrate all these things from which an entire people are suffering? Why should we give Israel the pretext for such things? In fact we are in dire need to think well about our actions. We are living under extremely difficult conditions. We should take every step carefully and know how to proceed.

Spokeswoman 'Appalled' at Israeli Court Ruling

TA2212183193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1830 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi says the High Court decision is liable to have an effect on the stability of the region and on the peace talks. In an interview with reporter Steve Linde shortly after the decision was announced this evening, 'Ashrawi gave her initial response:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] First of all, I am extremely appalled. I am really outraged that the decision was (?held) to keep the deportation order. This is liable to affect the stability of the area and the whole region. At the same time, it casts serious doubts on the legal system in Israel and on the decisionmaking process in Israel. And, it is sending negative messages and dealing serious blows to the possibilities of peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

[Linde] Do you think there is a possibility that Palestinians will now decide to withdraw from the peace talks?

['Ashrawi] Well, the Palestinian decision, after extensive talks in Tunis, were to first of all try to exert every possible effort to return the deportees, to make Israel comply with the will of the international community, to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, and to make Israel apply the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories, and prepare the atmosphere that would give the peace talks credibility. But in such an atmosphere, we really don't think that Israel is serious about peace or wants to pursue peace. [end recording]

Court Decision Assessed

LD2312001492 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commenting on the ruling by the Israeli High Court, the PLO announced in Tunis tonight that the ruling comes as a confirmation of Israel's exercise to continue the implementation of its policy of mass displacement against the Palestinian people. A PLO

spokesman said this position constituted a blow and a provocative challenge to the international community and to the UN Security Council, which had unanimously demanded the return of the deportees. [passage omitted]

Further on Hamas Attendance at Meeting in Tunis

To 'Transcend' Disagreements

PM2212145392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Ibrahim Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Hamas Will Accept 'Arafat Invitation and Transcend All Disagreements"]

[Text] London, Amman—Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has confirmed the movement's acceptance of the invitation addressed to it by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to attend an emergency meeting of the Palestinian factions to be held in Tunis.

Ghawshah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from his residence in Amman that "Hamas received the invitation and has responded positively."

Ghawshah added that a high-level four-member delegation will head for Tunis in the next few days. But he did not reveal the names of the delegation members. Nevertheless, he confirmed that he personally will be among them.

Asked whether Hamas had received an apology from the PLO for 'Arafat's description of it as "Zulu tribes," inasmuch as this was its condition for holding any meeting with PLO leaders, Ghawshah said "the situation prompts us to transcend all previous disagreements and statements."

He added: "We of Hamas, Fatah, or any other Palestinian factions are now standing in one closed rank. The Zionist enemy is fighting us with very close ranks. And we are required to confront him in the same manner. This is why we hope that all the Palestinian forces will stick together and unite their ranks."

Spokesman Holds News Conference

JN2212130792 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Ramdan Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] movement has expressed hope that, along with [Yasir] 'Arafat, it would bury the petty negotiations during the meeting that will be held in Tunis tomorrow between the movement and the PLO leadership.

At a news conference held in Amman by Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official spokesman of Hamas, and Muhammad Nazzal, the Hamas representative in Amman, Ghawshah asserted that the movement is eager to hold the Tunis meeting so that it may be a real beginning for all-out Palestinian activity on all levels to enhance and escalate the intifadah.

Ghawshah reiterated Hamas' stance emphasizing the importance of withdrawing from the negotiations and withdrawing the Palestinian negotiating team once and for all.

It is to be noted that the PLO had frozen the Palestinian delegation's participation in the negotiations in protest against Israel's deportation of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

On this issue, Ghawshah said that the reaction of Arab and Islamic states was not satisfactory. He expressed hope, however, that these states will achieve a degree of solidarity to mobilize world public opinion to apply pressure on Israel.

Hamas will participate in the Tunis meetings with a delegation which will leave tomorrow. Two members of the delegation, Ghawshah and Nazzal, will leave from Amman, while 'Imad al-'Alami, Hamas' representative in Tehran, and Musa Abu-Marzuq, chief of the movement's political bureau, will leave from Damascus.

It has been learned that the latter two will be accompanied by members from the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], which has decided to participate in the Tunis meetings, as well as the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front.

'Onslaught' Against Group Cited

JN2312094292 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Dec 92 p 12

[By Tawfiq 'Abidi]

[Text] The fierce Zionist onslaught against the Palestinian people and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the deportation of 415 Palestinians from their homeland; and the Hamas leadership's meeting with the PLO leadership, were three major topics of the news conference held by Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, and Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, at the office of the Islamic movement's deputies at noon yesterday.

Ghawshah said Hamas is still strong and the fierce onslaught will only make it stronger in the face of the vicious deportation of over 400 from among the best leaders and symbols of our people.

He asked: If the intifadah and armed struggle that we, the Palestinian people, are undertaking in the occupied territories are not considered a legitimate struggle, then what constitutes legitimate struggle in this world?

He added: We killed only their soldiers, who are killing our women and children. Their killing of an eight-year-old girl in a Khan Yunis massacre in which six of

our people died is not the last of these killings. We consider U.S. President-elect Clinton's description of our movement as a terrorist movement as part of the blatant U.S. partiality toward the Zionist enemy. A movement that fights its enemy which occupied its land and displaced its people can never be a terrorist movement. We have killed and kidnapped their soldiers while they were in full battle gear and with their hands stained with the blood of our innocent people. Is this terrorism, O sensible people of the world?

Ghawshah said: Hence, we consider this fierce onslaught against our people, particularly against our movement—and most recently the arrest of more than 1,900 of our people and the deportation of more than 400 struggle rs—as part of a scheme to liquidate our cause, and not only a reply to the kidnapping and killing of a Zionist soldier, as claimed by Zionist occupation authorities, despite the terror this operation, along with other past operations, instilled in the enemy's leadership, soldiers, and settlers.

He added: None of the deportees has been proven to have participated in "terrorist" acts, as termed by the Zionist enemy. They are mostly ranked among the best Palestinian political and administrative leaders. A look at the names, specializations, and social positions of these people may give you an idea about them. Most of the deportees are ulema, university professors, doctors, engineers, lawyers, and merchants, in addition to a few university students. The deportation of these sons and supporters of our movement is aimed at emptying the occupied territories of their ulema and intellectuals, who may constitute an obstacle to the Zionist scheme to liquidate our cause.

He said: The tragic situation of our deported mujahidin in Lebanon is well known to everybody. It constitutes a challenge to the human conscience that is standing witness to this tragedy. We insist that our deported brothers remain where they are until the time that they can return to their homeland regardless of the heavy price. This is the same position the deportees stressed in their statement. The acts of provocation against these deportees by the occupation army and its agents, the so-called South Lebanese Army, and the opening of fire on them and the subsequent injury of two of them—one seriously—underscore the legitimacy of our demand to provide urgent international protection for them through the United Nations. We hope that all the Arab and Islamic countries will seek to realize this demand.

He added: Security Council Resolution 799, which condemned the Zionist deportation, will not be sufficient as long as it is not supported by sanctions if unimplemented. The record of the state of the Zionist entity abounds with scores of resolutions which remained ink on paper.

Ghawshah added: Regarding the Palestinian leadership meeting in Tunis, in which our movement will take part, we stress that our agreement to attend comes from our belief in joint action and coordination in whatever relates to supporting our people's steadfastness and struggle against our Zionist enemy. We are looking forward to this meeting, hoping that it will be a real beginning of a comprehensive Palestinian move on all levels so that we can reinforce and escalate the blessed intifadah and extend all possible support for our steadfast people on the land of al-Isra' and al-Mi'raj [Palestine] through various means. As for the blessed intifadah, it should not be a subject of dispute. The intifadah is continuing and will escalate regardless of the sacrifices. We will make the occupation pay a very heavy price for staying in our beloved land. This is the option on which we all in Hamas, the PLO, and all the Islamic and national factions should meet. Otherwise, our enemy will not abandon any inch of our blessed land. We have all seen how the painful heroic operations, carried out by our people's mujahidin, have forced the enemy to seriously consider a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, because life for them there has become unbearable as a result of our people's jihad and brave intifadah.

He added: Over the past days, the Zionist media have been attempting to drive a wedge between the supporters of the PLO, particularly the brothers in the Fatah Movement, and the supporters of our movement, by implying that undermining Hamas would give Fatah a free hand, something which no wise man among our people, who have wide experience with the Zionist enemy and its games, can believe. The Zionist aggressors and occupiers consider all of us, Hamas and the PLO as enemies who must be uprooted, but the truth is that they give one priority over the other. Based on this, the Hamas Movement hopes that the meeting will result in practical steps to bolster national unity and reinforce field coordination among all factions in the Palestinian arena. We also are looking forward to the Tunis meeting to reiterate our views regarding the course of the negotiations, which have been going on for more than a year without achieving any progress.

Ghawshah said: Our position in this regard is known and firm. It is embodied by the need to withdraw from the negotiations, and also to withdraw the Palestinian delegation once and for all. The negotiations are now revolving in the orbit of the warmest autonomous rule. The great majority of our people and their factions reject this plan, and the position of the 10 [Damascus- based] Palestinian factions is known to everyone. He added: We reassure all those who are concerned about our people's cause that Hamas is in good shape, and that its solid nucleus will continue to be strong. This is not the first time that the Hamas Movement has been exposed to brutal arrest campaigns by the occupation forces. However, after each campaign, it has emerged stronger and mightier.

Responding to a question, Eng. Ghawshah said that the arrest of 1,900 Hamas cadres is a painful, but not deadly blow, especially since the solid nucleus is still there within the Palestinian ranks. He added: Our reply to the criminal operation will come very soon, not only by

Hamas, but also by its supporters who double day by day. He indicated that a joint statement was signed with the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah in order to unify ranks in the face of the Zionist enemy. He said: The Palestinian people are now in one trench.

He added: Our position on the negotiations has been clear since the Madrid conference. These negotiations are now at their death throes; no progress has been made and the issue of both settlements and Jerusalem has been excluded from the talks. Moreover, there is no Palestinian sovereignty over the land. He stressed that Yitzhaq Rabin is more dangerous and a stronger adherent of Zionism [than others]. By implementing the "transfer" program, he came closer to Ari'el Sharon and Ze'evi.

He hoped that meeting with the Palestinian leadership in Tunis would succeed in burying negotiations, and said: Hamas is part of the Palestinian people and has not found itself as an alternative to the PLO. It also is a Palestinian Islamic movement that has relations with many Arab and Islamic countries. These relations are based on the concept that the cause of Palestine is an Islamic cause.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, said: We hope that the Lebanese Government will provide the deportees with essential foodstuffs. We appreciate its decision not to allow the Zionist enemy to implement its transfer policy.

Replying to a question, Nazzal said: We asked the PLO to withdraw from the negotiations, and we now are asking the Arab countries to do so. He wondered why some Arab countries were late in condemning the Jewish crime and said that some of them did not issue even a statement of denunciation.

Egypt

Ceremony Held for Troops Going to Somalia 22 Dec

Mubarak Greets 600-Member Force

NC2212125892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak today attended a ceremony at the military college parade field in Heliopolis in honor of the Egyptian troops that will take part in the peacekeeping process in Somalia. Also attending the ceremony were People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, and the defense, interior, information, and foreign ministers.

At the beginning of the ceremony, a band played the national anthem. Staff Brigadier General Salmia Salim, head of the operations branch of the Military Operations Committee, addressed the audience, reviewing the mission of the Egyptian troops in keeping peace in Somalia. Afterward, President Mubarak shook hands with the commander of the force, Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Jalil al-Fakhrani, and the 600 members of the force, including 55 officers.

Mubarak Address on Current Issues

NC2212113692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak has underlined the need for goodwill to resolve problems among brothers and friends. He was speaking after the ceremony held today to greet the Egyptian troops that will take part in the peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

In his statement, Mubarak referred to the successful mediation he undertook to resolve the Saudi-Qatari border dispute. He said all the parties concerned had the goodwill to resolve that dispute and hence it was resolved.

Commenting on the Bahraini-Qatari border dispute, President Mubarak said: If the parties involved have the goodwill, Egypt will be able to work for a settlement of that dispute.

The president noted that all the Gulf states are closely linked and that we need their cohesion to maintain strength.

He added that if it were not for the Saudi and Qatari desire and the facilities provided by both sides, and especially by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, it would have been hard to find that honorable solution because the issue was "very complicated."

The president went on: There was goodwill, the two sides showed understanding, and the circumstances were favorable. Therefore, we were able to find a solution.

The president was asked about Iranian-Egyptian relations and reports about a possible meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries. He said: We always seek to establish good relations with all states in the world, not just with Iran or any other country. Our relations with the entire world are good.

He went on: The problems between us and Iran are clear, well known, and need no elaboration. We seek to build good relations and our consulates led us to open offices for a charge d'affaires in both countries. However, recent practices forced us to stop and examine what is happening.

Mubarak stressed in that regard that Egypt does not interfere in any state's internal affairs. We do not want them to meddle in our affairs just as we do not meddle in theirs, he said.

President Mubarak said that if the Iranians try to interfere in our affairs, we are capable of stopping them. If they stop interfering in our domestic affairs and in the affairs of surrounding countries, we would welcome it and extend our hand.

Mubarak added that Egypt and Iran will meet to exchange views. He said that the meeting will not be on the ministerial level because a meeting at that level can take place only when a common understanding is reached. He added that if an understanding is not reached in these areas, we do not believe that anyone should interfere, dominate, or deal with us arrogantly. He noted that we do not believe arrogantly with anyone and that we seek understanding in the interests of both countries. He added that if Iran can do all this, we welcome them. We have always maintained good ties with Iran.

Replying to a question on the Egyptian force's role in Somalia, President Mubarak said that peacekeeping is an honorable action, adding that Egypt has sought peace since the October war. Mubarak greeted the force today, before it left to help restore peace and stability in Somalia. He stressed that the main goal of the October war was peace, adding that peace is an honor for us and for the Egyptian Armed Forces, who enjoy a high reputation following the October war.

Mubarak noted that after participating in the war for the liberation of Kuwait, the reputation of our Armed Forces was enhanced. "We take pride in our Armed Forces, officers, and soldiers," he said, adding: "I believe that the mission for which they are going, or rather the first phase of that mission, is to help secure the arrival of humanitarian relief and to Somali citizens who are dying from starvation. We have seen on the television their extremely painful situations." He said that Egypt has worked in cooperation with other countries and the United Nations to realize the goal of ensuring the arrival of humanitarian aid to the Somali people.

Asked whether the efforts to resolve the Saudi-Qatari dispute will reflect positively on the Middle East problem, Mubarak said: The Saudi-Qatari issue is totally different from the Middle East problem; it was a

problem between two Arab countries. The Middle East problem, on the other hand, has persisted for over 40 years. It is a complex problem; a problem of an entire people and of occupation.

President Mubarak said he hopes that the peace and negotiations process will continue. We have to expect many obstacles and problems, he said, adding: If the Israeli and Arab sides are determined, and I am sure they are, a solution can be reached and peace can be established.

We are confident and I am very optimistic that a solution can be found, although it might take a long time, he said.

Asked about the border problem with Sudan, his excellency said: We have no border dispute with Sudan; we have an agreement and the entire world knows that. However, he added, it will be another story if they want to take part of our land.

The president added: We did not give up even one inch of Taba. I am not prepared and cannot afford to give up even one inch of Egyptian territory. This is not my right; it is the exclusive right of the Egyptian people. I do not want to talk about this issue, he said.

Responding to a question about the Palestinian deportees, the president said: I have sent messages to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the Foreign Ministry has done some things as well on this issue.

The president expressed his deep regrets over what is happening. I hope the issue of the deportees will be resolved and they will return to their homes, he said.

Mubarak remarked that boycotting the peace negotiations would be a "big mistake," adding that negotiations must be resumed despite the difficulties. If we boycott the negotiations, some undesirable repercussions might occur, he said.

Prime Minister Returns From Bahrain, Comments

NC2212212892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Manama, Bahrain this afternoon following a four-day visit. During his stay there, he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother the amir, His Excellency Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

In an arrival statement, Dr. Sidqi said he is carrying a reply message from the Bahraini amir to President Mubarak. He added that he had held talks there with the amir, the prime minister, and senior officials. An agreement has been reached to promote bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic, commercial, technical, industrial, and petroleum fields. He added that trade between the two countries is expected to increase greatly, noting that Bahraini investors expressed the desire to increase their investment in Egypt, which Egypt welcomed. Cooperation in the field of air and maritime transportation and in the petroleum fields also was agreed on during the visit, he added. A joint committee chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries will be established to consolidate this cooperation, he added.

Dr. Sidqi noted that the two countries' views on most of the political issues—including the Middle East, the Gulf, and the current international issues—are identical.

Burundi Minister Hands Message to Mubarak

NC2212213392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1227 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—Burundi Foreign Minister Libere Bararunyeretse said he handed President Husni Mubarak a message from Burundi President Pierre Buyoya during their meeting today. The message, he added, deals with matters of cooperation.

The Burundi minister said that Egypt and Burundi have strong ties of cooperation and friendship. He welcomed the OAU summit that will be held in Cairo, saying that Egypt and Burundi hold similar views on various international issues.

Ukranian President Departs Following 3-Day Visit

NC2312104892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0948 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Ukranian President Leonid Kravchuk left Cairo this morning at the end of a three-day official visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Rahman Addresses to Youths Reported

NC2212205592

[Editorial Report] AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic at 1040 GMT on 22 December transmits a report attributed to the 24 December issue of Cairo's SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic. AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY does not supply the page numbers, the author, or the headline of the report. All ellipses are as published by the magazine.

The report includes descriptions of excerpts from three cassette tapes that the magazine claims to be the "latest" ones sent by Shaykh Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, alleged leader of the fundamentalist Islamic Group, for "distribution and sale" at Egypt's mosques.

The first tape, entitled "My Message to the Youth of Egypt," includes 'Abd-al-Rahman's call for youths to stage a jihad against the government.

'Abd-al-Rahman is quoted by the magazine as saying on that tape:

"Remain steadfast, youth of Islam, bearers of the banner, grandsons of the Prophet and his associates. You have pledged to God that you will stage a jihad to save

the faith. Do not go back on your pledge or compromise. Do not let oppression intimidate you and change your minds. You have given a pledge [bay'ah] to stage a jihad until victory or martyrdom...strike a deadly blow at the enemies of God. Strike at them in every inch of land until you liberate the land from the grandsons of the apes and swine [allegory borrowed from Koranic reference to God's enemies being turned into apes and swine] who have eaten at the tables of Zionism, communism, and imperialism."

On the same tape, 'Abd-al-Rahman tells the youths: "Whoever dies at the hands of the soldiers of Egypt's Haman and pharaoh [reference to ancient Egyptian rulers pictured in the Koran as being despotic and unjust] is a martyr who dies defending his life, property, and honor at the hands of the atheist despots, guards of prostitution, and distributors of liquor."

The shaykh goes on to tell the youths that Islam is beleaguered in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Egypt, and India and must be defended. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman also tells the youth to spread the war from Asyut to other parts of the country. He is quoted as saying: "An eye for an eye and a life for a life, youth of Islam. Wage a merciless war, a no-holds-barred battle against the pharaohs and atheists of Egypt. Before the flames go out in Asyut, light more in Cairo. Before they bring Qina under control, set the towns and villages of the Nile Delta aflame. Disperse them before they disperse you.... Fear not their threats. They are a motley of cowards? [question mark as published] They do not fight for righteousness or faith.... They are in their death throes and will be crushed under your feet like dirty insects.... Martial and emergency laws will do them no good, nor will their roughing up of women and children."

Despite his call for "deadly blows" against "enemies of God" and his reference to top Egyptian leaders as pharaoh and Haman, the excerpts provided by the magazine do not include a clear call by 'Abd-al-Rahman for killing any government official.

'Abd-al-Rahman comments on the rumors of his marriage to an American and his dispute with other leading Islamic militants. The magazine cites him as saying: "I did not marry an American. Even if I did, is this a haram [religiously banned act]? I have no quarrel with anyone. Do not believe the lies of the treacherous ones who claim that I have a dispute with brothers who are held by the regime (a reference to 'Abbud al-Zumur). We do not seek personal gains so as to quarrel among us. I could have accepted high positions. He [al-Zumur, who was an Army officer] could have been in a commanding position in Satan's army. But we refused to share in the despotism of the rulers. [no end quotes as published]

On the second tape, entitled "My Message to the Rulers of Egypt," 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman admonishes the government for its hostility toward Iran and Sudan and declares tourism to be a haram, or an activity banned by religion.

The paper cites 'Abd-al-Rahman as saying: "Why are our rulers attacking the Islamic state in Iran? Is the ferocity of their attack due to the historic differences between the Shi'ite and Sunni doctrines? I do not think so. These differences should not prevent us from recognizing Iran's success in planting the first seed of an Islamic caliphate that would rule the world, conquer countries [taftah al-bilad], and rally people around the faith."

'Abd-al-Rahman is cited as saying: "I warn you, rulers of Egypt, of involvement in Sudan and its affairs. I warn you against continuing to threaten men who said that there is no God but God and chose Islam as their religion.... Stop saying that they export terror, for you are the makers of terror."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman refutes charges against him by the Egyptian interior minister: "I challenge Egypt's Haman [Koranic name of Egypt's first minister in ancient times] of an interior minister to produce one piece of evidence supporting the claims of his men that I have dispatched money or anything else [to Muslim fundamentalist militants]. I challenge him to open up his prisons, overcrowded with Muslim youths, to an international investigation committee sent, alas, by non-Muslim countries to look into human rights violations."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman then gives his opinion on tourism: "As for all these crocodile tears that are being shed about so-called tourism, I declare tourism to be haram...haram...and a flagrant and indisputable sacrilege. The land of Muslims will not be filled with houses of disrepute for atheists of every origin and type. We will not become public houses for drunks from the four corners of the earth. This is the heartland of Islam in which they want to spread evil, and we will not let them do so. You rulers know that well, but have no moral fiber."

In the magazine-supplied excerpt of his remarks, 'Abd-al-Rahman also describes visits to archaeological sites as worshipping "idols," which is banned by God, but he does not make any clear call for attacks on tourists or tourist facilities.

The third cassette tape, entitled "My Message to the Scoundrel," is an admonishment to Egypt's leading Islamic institute, al-Azhar. 'Abd-al-Rahman uses a pun in referring to al-Azhar with the Arabic word al-az'ar, meaning scoundrel. The magazine cites him as saying: "Fear God, you ulema of Islam. Your are the bearers of the Islamic banner. Do not befriend the rulers and do not turn into mindless and faithless puppets. Stop the hypocrisy and act not as charlatans. I am talking, but is anyone listening? Why am I talking to dummies who climb into the pulpits to deliver sermons written by the secret service? The so-called preachers of the scoundrel [al-Azhar] can hardly read and have scant knowledge of the Book of God [the Koran]. Things cannot get better until they are all replaced."

'Abd-al-Rahman then terms the mufti of the Republic "a corruptor," using another pun between the word "mufti"

and the Arabic word for corruption: "mufsid." The magazine cites 'Abd-al- Rahman as telling the mufti: "We had faith in you, but you sold us. You have sold your soul to the devil, but we have made our vows to God. You probably are aware of the difference [between us] and the consequences [of your actions]."

'Abd-al-Rahman, in the magazine-provided excerpts, does not elaborate on the consequences of the mufti's acts or those of any of al-Azhar's officials.

Article Defends Fundamentalism, Labor Policies

NC2112105092 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 92 pp 3, 9

[Article by Chief Editor 'Adil Husayn: "We Are Not Alone...Muslim and Legal Scholars and All Patriots Oppose Your Terrorism and Warn of a Catastrophe."]

[Excerpts] Fundamentalism, to a Muslim, means a return to the origins of Islam as found in the Koran and the prophet's traditions. Has advocacy of this become a crime? If someone holds such a view, is he opposing a group of Muslims he believes are straying or is he—God forbid—opposing Islam itself? Fundamentalism, as we have defined it, is Islam. Fundamentalists are the Muslim public. If you attack fundamentalism and fundamentalists, you are attacking Islam and Muslims. This is a fact you must openly face.

The same applies to mysticism. An attack on mysticism is not an attack on a group of idiots or ignoramuses but a direct and open attack on Islam and the general concept of religion. Belief in mystical matters is part of a believer's creed and is inseparable from his faith in the physical world.

A Muslim is required to use his mind and develop his scientific abilities. He realizes, however, that God-given abilities are limited and cannot be compared to God's all-encompassing knowledge. This is where mysticism comes in. We need to learn from revelation in addition to what we learn by reason and experiment. [passage omitted]

The same applies to talk about hardliners and extremists. If the talk means that some of us, in making religious interpretations, ban some things permitted by God and make people's lives harder—although Islam instructs us to choose the easier path, provided it involves no sin or a departure from shari'ah—then we agree with this explanation. However, we notice in what we read and hear that there are other motives. If the disagreement with those hardliners and extremists were as we have discussed, it would be a normal difference of opinion that could be resolved by wisdom and good counsel. In such a case, we must show forbearance just as we ask the "hardliners" to try to see our opposing view, which they believe expresses a degree of permissiveness in religious matters that is frightening to them.

Our dialogue with "hardliners" and "extremists" does not necessarily mean that we will persuade them to change their beliefs. They have the right to maintain their views in their zeal for what they see as the true religion. This is how dialogue should be: that respects reason and respects every person's right to choose the belief with which he is comfortable. This is Islam's great method that has produced diverse religious schools. The only condition to which everyone must adhere is that the advocacy of any religious interpretation must be done by reason and good counsel, not by violence or coercion. [passage omitted]

It is not true that all hardliners and overzealous interpreters of religion are necessarily violent people. Many of them merely hold a different view. The official media, however, see it differently and insist that every hardliner is an advocate of violence and terrorism. More seriously, matters have reached the point where every Islamist is necessarily a hardliner, an extremist, and, consequently, a terrorist who advocates armed violence, even if he swears he is not like that and proves he is not by his actual conduct.

The Labor Party's jurisprudence [fiqh] cannot be described as overzealous or stagnant. This however is doing us no good. It is certain that we are conducting our political action legally and openly. This does no good either. The same thing is said about the Muslim Brotherhood. The charge of extremism—and hence violence—has now touched his eminence the al-Azhar imam and His Eminence Shaykh al-Sha'rawi [reference to a well-known preacher].

Say it openly: that any call for Islam in any manner or method is unacceptable.

We are saying again, loudly: If you oppose political violence, we support you. If, however, you wish to harm Islam, you will only be able to do it over our dead bodies...and in a war against the entire nation. [passage omitted]

Do you imagine that His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq [al-Azhar imam], His Eminence Shaykh al-Sha'rawi, or any scholar or Muslim intellectual would agree with you if you refused to implement shari'ah, permitted Muslims to sell alcoholic beverages, or wished to give free reign to debauchery and immorality? Regrettably, your morbid imagination has reached this point and when these people rejected your calls, they became "extremists"!

How could you—may God oppose you—imagine that al-Azhar's imam and our venerable ulema would become mere "rubber stamps," signing all the statements the government asks them to? How could you imagine that they would declare that young men resorting to violence are infidels? Do you want to combat the principle of branding straying rulers as infidels and replace it with the principle of branding straying citizens as infidels? Do you want the ulema to stand by your side against all the deviations of the young without having the opportunity to express their views about the state-sponsored deviations from religion that the state sponsors in various spheres? How can this be?

His eminence al-Azhar's imam spoke truly when he said: "I do not know how the media of an Islamic country can publish attacks on Islam. When I send a response to such attacks, it is not published. If evil has become public and finds someone to advocate it loudly, this is not al-Azhar's fault nor a shortcoming on its part. It is the fault of those who allow evil to speak loudly everywhere, either by overlooking it until it grew large and sank its claws into everything or by actually supporting it." [passage omitted]

If we go back to the Labor Party, there is no doubt that we hold those who demand an Islamic solution to our nation's problem. In other words, we demand government commitment to implement the shari'ah as it appeared in the Constitution. The shari'ah in our terminology is not a mere outline, but an integrated system that starts with dedication to God alone, and everything that stems from that, such as morals and virtues that guide education, teaching, politics, and the economy.

In light of this, our political jurisprudence contains opposition to tyranny but support for counsel. We expressed this belief by adopting the draft constitution supervised by Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad [a senior Labor Party official], a constitution that supports pluralism and changes the government through general elections.

Therefore, we did not find it enough to hoist the slogan that Islam is the solution; we translated the slogan in various fields into specific stands. We considered that an independent (political and economic) will is the first condition for growth. There is no scope for progress if the enemies of our nation, who are keen to disparage us, are the ones who control our decisions. This independence is the first condition for the Islamic nation to spread its call: To enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong. This independence requires the unity of the Arabs and Muslims everywhere as well as courage to face the Americans and Zionists.

From the economic aspect, all this means that we should raise growth averages, especially in the field of agriculture and industry, to become self-reliant and produce our necessities. This can be realized by securing the people's funds and the results of their efforts. Everyone will work hard; the state's job will be to protect and channel competition, prevent the hegemony of foreigners on the economy, protect the oppressed, guarantee justice, etc.

What is obscure or irrational in this kind of talk? Where do ambiguity and the calls for tyranny and totalitarianism come in? It is the right of any party or group of human beings to disagree with what we call for, or with our methods of work (this is the concept of recognizing pluralism. Pluralism, by definition, means disagreement). However nobody has the right to accuse us of being vague or hostile to knowledge and thinking. These descriptions might fit some Islamists, but they definitely do not fit us.

What is our crime? Our crime is that we link everything we present to Islam. In fact, we derive everything from the principles of Islam. And as long as the issue addresses Islam, we must be extremists and terrorists. [passage omitted]

The Labor Party has another problem that distinguishes it from most of the other parties. Alongside our Islamic call, the Labor Party also insists that its call be for comprehensive reform, not merely easy criticism and newspaper writing. However, we put words into action and wage true battles to change the political system to make possible removing the corrupt and incompetent party; the National Democratic Party. We do this publicly to give the people their right to free elections. The clear example here lies in the local elections, in which we realized results that restored confidence to the citizens.

This is our course, and it is clear. Why, therefore, insist that we are terrorists or that we encourage terrorist acts? Stop this deception.

So they wish to contain political violence; everything the rulers are doing now will not help realize the objective. All it will do is fan the fire even more.

The deliberate mix-up between extremism and fundamentalism on the one hand, and violence on the other, means declaring war against Islam itself, including all its explanations, in the name of combating violence and terrorism. This foolery will herald catastrophe because the battle will not be confined to chasing limited groups; it will turn into a fight against an entire nation.

This insistence on faking elections blocks the hope for peaceful reform and pushes the youth to violence. The youth are facing an ordeal in their religion and world. They are bearing problems beyond the patience level of any person. So the door to peaceful reform must be opened or else bullets, fire, and fighting will be the option. This is your option and you are the ones responsible, in view of your position in the government, for the course of events.

Is it reasonable that the announcement of the true results of the local council elections have not been released yet? Is it reasonable to continue challenging the rulings of the judiciary?

And what is this new tradition of referring civilians to the military courts? And why is a shameless and unprecedented uproar being created against the judiciary and its rulings when it reminded everyone of the articles of the constitution and the law, which stipulate that defendants, irrespective of the crime, should be tried by his natural judge? How could things have gone this far? The president approves the rulings of the Alexandria military court immediately after the ruling of the administrative court was issued, as though it was a frank announcement that the president is above the law and does not abide by its rulings?

Do you believe that this stand by judicial authorities encourages stability and stops violence?

If elections are a dead-end, if the judiciary is also ineffective, how can we convince the youth not to be involved in resisting oppression, corruption, and violence? How can businessmen and investors feel safe about their funds in a state that does not abide by the law and where a president can do whatever he wants?

Despite all the fiery statements that threaten terrorists, and despite the thousands of officers and soldiers, we confirm, regrettably, that violence will increase. And you are responsible.

We know that the Americans and Zionists conspire against the Muslims and Islam, in Egypt and outside of it. They know that Islam is the jihad's generator that can counter their deceit and designs. However, God's cunning is greater than the cunning of these people and their followers. You shall see.

Tourism Association Concerned Over Cancellations

NC2012212892 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 5

[Report by Ashraf al-Jiddawi]

[Excerpt] Greater Cairo and the governorates of Qina and Aswan are going through a period of recession in tourist arrivals and a decline in hotel occupancy rate. This led the Chamber of Egyptian Hoteliers to call for a series of professional meetings among the management and proprietors of more than 650 hotels to learn the truth about the situation and the magnitude of cancellations. According to the chamber's president Anis Salamah, this will help work out a plan to cope with the current situation through a promotion and advertisement campaign both at home and abroad to rescue the last few months of the winter tourist season.

The fact of the matter is that the drop in occupancy rate as a result of the decline in tourist arrivals in Egypt currently ranges between 30 and 50 percent. This figure reflects the repeated cancellation of bookings since early November. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Joint Statement on Talks Issued With Egypt

JN2212121292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain and the Arab Republic of Egypt have affirmed the importance of safeguarding the stability of the Gulf region and keeping it away from tension through maintaining security and stability there. The two countries have also affirmed their strong conviction that international relations must be based on mutual respect among states, on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and on noninterference in the domestic affairs of other states.

In a joint statement issued at the conclusion of a four-day visit to the State of Bahrain by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the two sides underscored their common determination to make effective contributions toward the creation of a new world order based on justice, the rule of law, and international legitimacy to help create a proper international climate for constructive cooperation among world peoples.

The statement expressed the two sides' desire to hold periodic coordination and consultations between themselves and announced their agreement to form a joint ministerial committee to be headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The two sides affirmed their support for Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative, which called for declaring the Middle East region an area free of the weapons of mass destruction and affirmed the need for effecting an arms control program to create a security balance among countries of the region.

The joint statement expressed the satisfaction of both sides over the spirit of amity and fraternity which permeated their talks—a matter which caused [words indistinct] the two sides with regard to the topics discussed.

The two sides voiced their satisfaction over the positive development witnessed in the fraternal bilateral ties and reaffirmed their desire to enhance bilateral cooperation and coordination in implementation of the directives of Bahrain Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who decided, during their numerous meetings, to advance bilateral ties to realize the aspirations and ambitions of the two peoples.

On the Arab level, the two sides expressed their firm determination to continue work together and along with the sisterly Arab states to promote joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League, and stressed the need to clear the Arab atmosphere in order to serve the fateful causes of the Arab nation and meet the supreme pan-Arab interests.

Within this framework, the two sides renewed their full support for the Arab nation's basic issue and stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and regain their legitimate rights.

The two sides expressed their deep concern over the recent Israeli escalation precipitated by the deportation of a number of Palestinians from their land, something which reflects negatively on the current peace. They stressed the need for Israel to respect and commit itself to implementing the pertinent UN Security Council resolutions.

The two sides reviewed the current peace efforts and the efforts to promote the current talks in this regard. They expressed satisfaction over the convocation of the peace conference and the multilateral talks, affirming the need to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle, and the withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Syrian Golan Heights, as well as Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The Bahraini side expressed its appreciation and pride regarding sisterly Egypt's role in backing and strengthening Arab cooperation and solidarity.

The two sides also expressed their satisfaction over the positive and constructive results achieved by the nonaligned summit in Jakarta and the recent conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization in Saudi Arabia. They stressed their determination to pursue efforts to find a just, honorable solution to the problems of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Muslims. They also affirmed their rejection and condemnation of the genocide and violations being conducted by Serbian forces in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

The two sides appealed to the world community to stand firmly against these practices and to work to ensure stability and peace in a manner that ensures the legitimate rights of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Muslims.

The two sides also expressed their regret and concern over the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Somalia as a result of the bloody conflict among brothers in Somalia, affirming their support for the fraternal Somali people in their painful ordeal and appealing to all warring factions in it to remove all causes of conflict and to work to safeguard the unity of their homeland.

In this regard, the two sides welcomed efforts by Arab parties, the United Nations, and all peace-loving nations to restore peace, security, and safety to the fraternal Somali people.

Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his accompanying delegation have expressed their admiration of

the modernity and progress in the State of Bahrain in all spheres, thanks to his wise leadership.

Dr. 'Atif ? Abi has invited His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin- Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister, to pay an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. His highness accepted the invitation provided that a date is set in the near future.

Yemen

President Wishes GCC Leaders Successful Summit

JN2212202992 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has sent a cable to his brother, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and chairman of the 13th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states.

Following is the text of the cable:

Dear brother Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE and chairman of the GCC's 13th summit. Peace be upon you.

While your country is hosting the 13th GCC summit, we are pleased to express to you and to the brother GCC leaders our sincere brotherly wishes of success for your summit. We also express our hope [words indistinct] important step toward ensuring Arab solidarity through the joint efforts of the leaders of the Arab nation, who have no choice other than solidarity and cohesion.

[Words indistinct] the Republic of Yemen [words indistinct] the importance of regaining brotherliness, amity, and [word indistinct] between [words indistinct] this [word indistinct] and our conviction that its safety and security are an indivisible whole.

We share your view that the enormous changes witnessed by the world today make it incumbent on the leaders and sons of the Arab nation to work [words indistinct] unity of ranks so as to achieve what we all seek in terms of progress, security, and stability for our nation and to protect its sovereignty and independence.

We in the Republic of Yemen have spared no effort [words indistinct] proceeding from our goodwill and hope that all disputes and differences can be discussed and ironed out in such a common vision [words indistinct] joint action to achieve the aspirations and objectives of our Arab nation. We ask God Almighty [words indistinct].

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council

'Abdallah Denies Presence of Tribal 'Gatherings'

PM2312111092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari report: "'Abdallah al-Ahmar Denies Existence of Gatherings; Socialist Party Warns Against 'Militarizing Cities'"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Hussayn al-Ahmar, chief of the Hashid tribes, yesterday denied to AL-HAYAH that Yemeni tribes could have armed armed elements in Sanaa. The denial of Shaykh 'Abdallah—leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, one the largest Yemeni parties—coincided with the Yemeni Socialist Party's warning against "militarizing Yemeni cities, including Sanaa."

A positive development occurred in the Yemeni situation yesterday, as workers' unions decided to suspend the strike they had announced on 7 December and which was followed by violent incidents on a number of cities. The unions announced their decision following a meeting held between their leaders and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. It was attended by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

In his statement Shaykh 'Abdallah said: "Actually there are no tribal gatherings, as some people say. The fact of the matter is that, when riot and subversive actions began, chiefs and notables of the Yemeni tribes started to arrive in the capital, where they held successive meetings to discuss the incidents. Today's meeting (yesterday) was the last. They issued a statement in which they expressed their view of conditions on the whole and listed demands which will be presented to the Presidential Council and the government via the committee representing all governorates of the republic. They all serve the homeland's interests, security, and stability.

"As for the general situation, actually everyone is concerned. And efforts are being carried to defuse the situation and spare the country danger."

Asked about the measures taken recently by the authorities to tackle the situation, he said: "As for the measures announced by the authorities recently, they are sufficient. But if they are implemented sincerely, it will be a starting point toward correcting many aspects. And if the authorities are not persuaded to abolish partnership and do not work sincerely and correctly to hold general elections, conditions will remain abnormal."

A statement issued by "chiefs and notables of the Yemeni tribes in all governorates of the republic" held the two ruling parties responsible for what is happening. The statement said: "First, the roots of the crisis from which our country is suffering are political roots represented in power sharing, which has led to turning all the states' organs and capabilities into tools for political struggle, rather than serving citizens' public interests.

Second, the terrible crisis from which our country is suffering is the result of the political crisis and the

tampering with and score for public funds over the recent period. It is also the result of exploiting all state capabilities to serve narrow partisan interests for the two ruling parties.

Third, what is happening cannot be dissociated from the issue of the elections, which will remain the only option to produce a sound and safe situation. And the state's credibility with regard to holding the elections depends on its taking serious and sincere measures to achieve that. [passage omitted]

Colonels' Funeral Held; Cause of Death Not Given

JN1812204792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The funeral of Colonel Haytham 'Ali Muhsin, commander of the Shabal Brigade, and Colonel 'Abd-al-Qawi Salih al-Qahm, commander of the naval base in the southern sector of operations, took place at the al-Rahmah mosque in al-Mansurah, Aden Governorate, and proceeded to their final resting place in martyrs cemetery in [placename indistinct].

Brigadier General Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs, a number of officials, and a crowd of citizens, participated in the funeral ceremony.

Council Urges Mobilizing All National Efforts

JN2112131592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Presidential Council held a meeting today chaired by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, in the presence of brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

During the meeting, the Presidential Council discussed developments in the national arena in light of the results of the joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers, the decisions made to remedy economic conditions, improve standards of living, and enhance national economy. The Council also discussed the results of the meetings held by the Presidential Council with the Federation of Trade and Industrial Chambers and businessmen and tradesmen, investors, leaders of the General Federation of Trade Unions, and workers' unions throughout the governorates. [passage omitted]

The Presidential Council stressed the importance of mobilizing the efforts of all political forces and national efforts and mobilizing all capabilities to translate the decisions of the joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers into action and enhance the march of national accord, as well as create an appropriate climate to conduct the general elections of the next Council of Representatives on 27 April 1993. [passage omitted]

Greater Role Urged for Industrialists, Businessmen

JN1712200592 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, today met with the brother official in charge of the industrial and trade chambers, as well as businessmen and tradesmen in our country.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, welcomed the brother attendees, expressing his regret over the recent incidents witnessed by the capital, Sanaa, as well as several other cities, including the regrettable riots and acts of violence which claimed the lives of several individuals and harmed some public and private institutions and shops.

He noted that these acts conflict with democratic practice which guarantees the right to self-expression within the limits of national responsibility. He said that democracy is basically a balance of interests and consolidation of honorable, good solidarity in political, economic, and social spheres under the umbrella of the state of institutions and the state of law and order. He further pointed out that democracy is the new road that spares the country the dangers of coups and plots and opens the way to broad national participation by all the sons of the Yemeni homeland in running the affairs of the state and the community and building a democratic, modern Yemen.

The vice chairman of the Presidential Council stressed the importance of consolidating efforts to create an appropriate climate to activate the role of the commercial and industrial sector in our country and give more attention to this sector so that it can assume its role in economic and social development and in overcoming economic problems facing our country.

He also emphasized mobilizing all efforts to create an appropriate climate to conduct the general parliamentary elections as scheduled on 27 April 1993. The brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council stressed the need to bolster security and stability and end any practices that could jeopardize the people's security and stability, make citizens uneasy, or disrupt their daily life.

He also appealed to all workers in the commercial and industrial sector, as well as investors, to play a greater role in building the Yemeni homeland and present proposals and views that could contribute to remedying the current economic conditions and developing its production capacity. He also urged them to encourage dealing with national production input, as well as to contribute to drafting and formulating public laws for the state and various institutions, since building the Yemeni homeland is the responsibility of all sectors and segments of the people.

Several attendees also spoke at the meeting, briefing the vice chairman of the Presidential Council on the concerns and aspirations of the industrial and commercial sector in our country, urging remedying the economic

conditions and preserving the value of national currency, fighting corruption and bribery, and dealing sincerely and seriously with all national issues.

The participants also said it was important for political parties and organizations to have political and economic programs and pre..ent them to the masses. They emphasized the importance of holding elections as scheduled and guaranteeing the right to self-expression and the citizens' choosing their representatives through truly democratic and honest ways.

UN Approval of Inspection of Trucks Welcomed

JN2212205292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Iraq welcomes the UN secretary general's approval of the proposal to set up two checkpoints in the Fa'idah and Khazar areas in northern Iraq. An IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in New York said Iraq's permanent mission to the United Nations today issued a press statement in which it said a joint team of UN officials and Iraqi experts will conduct inspections to guarantee the security of relief efforts carried out by trucks coming from Turkey with relief supplies to northern Iraq.

In its statement, the mission added that Iraq's proposal affirms certain parties' responsibility for the recent acts of sabotage, which were aimed at fabricating crises to put pressure on Turkey to agree to prolong the presence of Western forces on its territory.

On 20 December, an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry stated that Iraq proposed to the United Nations that representatives from the United Nations and Iraqi authorities conduct a joint inspection of the trucks dispatched by UN agencies from Turkey at the entry and exit points supervised by the Iraqi authorities in the north of the country. This proposal has been communicated to Jan Eliasson, assistant UN secretary general for humanitarian affairs, and to his Baghdad representative Mr. Foran.

Ramadan Visits Jordan About Reaction to Killing

PM2212155692 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sahmah Ni'mat: "Saddam's Deputy in Amman in Attempt To Contain Repercussions of al-Janabi Assassination"]

[Text] Amman—Baghdad yesterday moved at the highest level to contain the repercussions of the assassination of an Iraqi engineer in Amman. An Iraqi security organ has been accused of carrying out the assassination.

Jordanian diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has arrived in Amman to meet with Jordanian officials "in an attempt to prevent a deterioration of Jordanian-Iraqi relations" in the wake of the assassination, considered to be the first of its kind in many years.

It should be recalled that the Jordanian security authorities arrested six Iraqis suspected of complicity in the assassination of Engineer Mu'ayyad Hasan Naji al-Janabi on an Amman street on 7 December. Al-Janabi was 35 years old and worked for the Iraqi military industries. He tried to seek refuge in the West while on vacation in Jordan and was then offered a job in Libya.

The Jordanian sources expected Ramadan to ask the Jordanian Government "not to allow the incident to undermine bilateral relations." They said that the Iraqi official's visit, which has not been officially announced, came as a confirmation of the complicity of Iraqi official organs in the assassination, which has alarmed Iraqis living in Jordan.

The same sources said that the Jordanian Government had, until yesterday, rejected attempts by Iraqi officials to visit Amman to discuss the effects of the assassination. The Iraqi vice president was expected to meet with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir yesterday.

Jordan is known to have expressed extreme anger and resentment following the discovery of the Iraqi Government organs' involvement in al-Janabi's assassination. The Iraqi Embassy in Amman blamed the Israeli intelligence service Mossad for the assassination.

According to reliable sources, the Iraqis arrested after the incident have made full confessions about their complicity and exposed an Iraqi espionage ring operating in Jordan, which led to more arrests.

Bomb Explodes in al-Sulaymaniyah Hotel; 1 Injured

NC2212170692 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] A bomb containing 1.5 kg of TNT exploded last night at the Mawlawi Hotel in the town of al-Sulaymaniyah, slightly injuring one person and damaging the hotel. The concerned authorities began investigating the incident.

INA Reports 'Aziz Statements to Turkish Media

JN2212152192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1359 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Ankara, 22 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has stated that U.S. and British political goals stand behind the continued economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

In an interview conducted by Turkish journalist Midhat Bayrkat in Baghdad for the "32 Days" television program and published by the Turkish newspaper SABAH, Tariq 'Aziz said that Turkey should work to end the blockade imposed on Iraq, because the blockade harms all states of the region, not Iraq only.

On prospects for the normalization of the Iraqi-Turkish relations, the deputy prime minister explained that the only obstacle to the restoration of these relations is the blockade imposed on Iraq. He said: It is in Turkey's interest to exert efforts to lift this blockade and to establish joint cooperation.

Sudanese Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2212113992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir, Sudan's minister of construction and public works, has arrived in Baghdad on a visit to the country that will last several days.

In a statement to INA correspondent, the Sudanese minister said: During the visit to fraternal Iraq, we seek to study the major and great achievements scored in the field of reconstructing what has been destroyed by the unjust war and despite the unfair economic blockade imposed on the mujahidin people of Iraq, and to learn from the experience gained by Iraqi engineers in the field of reliance on national resources to build, maintain, and renovate roads, bridges, and buildings.

He added that it is only natural for the Sudanese officials to visit the mujahid Iraq because the past, present, and future links between the two fraternal people cannot be broken. He also said that the visit aims at holding talks with officials in the Ministry of Housing and Construction to exchange experience and improve brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries.

Talks With Counterpart

JN2212200392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Sudan on bolstering bilateral cooperation in the fields of housing and construction opened today.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks was headed by Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, minister of housing and reconstruction, while the Sudanese delegation was headed by 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir, minister of construction and public works.

The minister of housing and reconstruction reviewed our militant country's building and reconstruction drive under President Saddam Husayn despite the circumstances of the unjust blockade, relying on national engineering and technical capabilities. The minister indicated that over 95 percent of what was destroyed by the aggressors during their treacherous 30-state aggression has been reconstructed.

'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir, Sudanese minister of construction and public works hailed the jihad-like posture of the Iraqi leadership and people as they resist the forces of aggression. He stressed the Sudanese people's support for the Iraqi people and their leader Saddam Husayn in their heroic confrontation of the 30-state aggression and the plots and designs that are aimed at harming Iraq and its proud people.

The two sides will discuss the possible contribution that Iraqi consultative centers can provide for the preparation of studies and designs for projects in Sudan and the help that the National Center for Construction Laboratories can offer in the field of qualitative control and laboratory tests for the construction sector in Sudan. The possibility of providing training for Sudanese technical cadres in the design of construction projects, the building and maintenance of roads and bridges, and quality control will also be discussed.

Foreign Minister Receives Arab League Envoy

JN2212205692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf this evening received Rashid Idris, envoy of the Arab League secretary general. During the meeting, the minister received a written message from Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on cooperation and coordination between Iraq and the general secretariat of the Arab League.

The foreign minister stressed Iraq's eagerness to promote action with the Arab League in all fields that serve the Arab nation's interests.

The foreign minister stressed competent Iraqi quarters' readiness to work with Rashid Idris, the Arab league secretary general's envoy, to make his mission successful.

The minister expressed the hope that the Arab League will contribute effective efforts against the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq, and that various Arab League organs will call for lifting the iniquitous blockade imposed on Iraq and will consider that an Arab demand.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Organizations and International Conferences Departments at the Foreign Ministry.

Trade Minister, Others on Banned Goods

JN2212113392 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 16 Dec 92 p 10

[Report by Iham 'Abd-al-Karim]

[Text] The new period set for marketing the imported nonbasic goods ended at midnight on 10 December, following an extension of the previous period as a good gesture to the merchants by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

What happened after that? How did the inspection teams fulfill their tasks? What is the situation in Baghdad markets now? And, what do the merchants and citizens think? These questions were raised by ALIF BA' to a number of officials, starting with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih.

['Abd-al-Karim] We are now conducting this interview 18 hours after the decision went into effect. What is the situation now, and what is your view of the state of the market and the work of the inspection teams?

[Salih] On Friday [11 December], the inspection teams recorded 6 violations out of 248 shops in one of the inspection sectors in the Baghdad Governorate. I started with these statistics for one important reason: to show that the merchants have responded positively to the instructions and have not kept in their shops any banned goods that are not authorized by the instructions. These initial results do not represent a reliable sample because the day on which the decision went into effect happened to be a holiday. We expect the violations to disappear completely in the coming days.

['Abd-al-Karim] How do you react to reports that some people have hidden the goods in their houses or in other remote places, far from the inspectors' eyes.

[Salih] We cannot say that everyone has hidden their goods, nor can we say there are merchants who have not hidden their banned goods. There is, however, a positive response to the decision and we know this from the follow-up work of the inspection and economic security agencies. The chambers of commerce are also involved in this effort because they have played a part in educating the merchants and explaining matters in detail for them before the decision went into force. You should also know that some inspection teams started their work before the decision went effect and were submitting reports on a daily basis from which we have learned there was a positive and quick response.

['Abd-al-Karim] Now that the inspections teams have started work, can you judge whether or not the decision was effective?

[Salih] The decision had two objectives. First, to ban the movement of expensive, imported goods and this has been achieved. If we look at the recorded violations—248 shops with only six violations—the percentage of violators does not exceed 2.6 percent. This is a very low percentage and is insignificant when you take into account the number of shops all over Iraq. The second objective is based on the fact that the citizens who need such goods have already bought them. Now, when these goods no longer appear, the local products will emerge and take their place in the market. We are certain that competition among the merchants to provide better quality will improve the local products.

['Abd-al-Karim] Has a date been fixed for the committees to end inspections of stores and shops?

[Salih] No definite date has been fixed but the state will extend the period of inspection if it feels this is necessary. If there is no need to continue it, it will stop. All this depends on the inspection results we receive daily from all the country's governorates.

['Abd-al-Karim] Most of the Baghdad stores have been closed. Some of them look empty. What do you say to that and what do you expect will happen in this regard?

[Salih] It is not true that the stores have been closed but it is true that the owners and keepers of these stores need time to think about the activities they plan to practice now that they have given details of the goods in their shops. It is only a matter of time. The local production will appear and the market will be restored to normal. The banned articles are limited and there are many articles that could be sold by the shop owners.

The trade minister added that many shops that sell locally produced clothes and commodities are still open and will have many visitors within a few days. This, among others, is essentially the aim of the decision.

Concluding his remarks, the trade minister said that the wise decision made to liquidate the imported commodities will motivate the private sector to display a better performance and will provide job opportunities for the poor families, especially in the field of tailoring. He said the prices of local commodities are competitive and that no matter how high they become, they will always be less than the prices of imported commodities.

In order to have first-hand knowledge about the situation one day after the implementation of the decision banning dealing with luxury commodities, we went to the Trade Ministry to meet with Muthanna Ibrahim al-Hatim, director general of the Trade Control Department and a member of the operations room. He said: The operations room consists of the governor as chairman, and includes representatives of the Interior Ministry—economic crimes and police departments—the Trade Ministry, the Trade Control Department, the Justice Ministry, and the Finance Ministry.

['Abd-al-Karim] What time did the first inspection team go out on inspections after the expiry of the deadline?

[Al-Hatim] The first inspection team went out at 0030, only 30 minutes after the expiry of the deadline. In Baghdad, the first team went out at 0600.

Al-Hatim noted that Baghdad was divided into 20 zones for inspection purposes. This means that 20 inspection teams went out at the same time in the directions outlined for each team.

['Abd-al-Karim] What were the obstacles and problems you faced during inspections?

[al-Hatim] Absolutely nothing out of the ordinary. No refusals, no attacks. Shopkeepers did not resist the inspection. Everything was carried out quietly.

Al-Hatim said there were violations on the first day but everything went peacefully on the second day despite the fact that it was a Saturday, normally a very busy day.

['Abd-al-Karim] What is your position on the retailers who keep any of the foreign goods?

[Al-Hatim] The decision is clear and does not allow for any exceptions. Some shop owners were detained for violations, such as holding on to one or two boxes of cosmetics or a garment or more, thus providing a clear violation and a defiance of the decision, which is not

permitted. Those violators will be questioned and then put on trial. Work is going on smoothly and no violations will be allowed. Meanwhile, the teams are conducting their work with precision and perseverance. The citizens have responded positively to the competent authorities and have even helped us in our work because they realize that the decision has been made in the interest of the country and citizens.

One day before the decision went into force, we had a brief tour in some markets, where we raised some questions. We expected shop owners to express dissatisfaction with the decision. However, their preparedness and acceptance of the decision was noteworthy. They also made contacts and signed contracts with merchants to supply them with local products. Retailers, however, said they are worried about bad-quality products and they hope the quality of local products would be maintained. The citizens are looking for what they need and do not care if these products are local or imported. The target now is to provide a good-quality, reasonably-priced local product.

Certain shops are still closed and their owners are waiting for the proper moment to exhibit good-quality products and hoping the industrial sector would supply them with such products. Some citizens say: Thank God, we no longer have to put up with the high prices of imported products.

Outside a small shop specializing in the sale of all kinds of sweets and confectionery, we met a seven-year old boy called Sayf. I asked him: Sayf, what do you think now that there is no Nestle or sweets? He looked at me, with expressive eyes, and said: It does not matter; my mother will make me date or carrot sweets. I understood what his eyes were trying to tell me. I believe a new formula is now emerging to demonstrate the citizens' desire to overcome calamities and support any sincere nationalistic decision to keep the homeland glorious and lofty.

Assembly, Council Members To Receive Pay Increase

JN2212210392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Presidential Office; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Based on the clauses of Paragraph 1 of Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 427 of 26 November 1991, and Article B of Paragraph 1 of RCC Decree No. 293 of 3 November 1992, the leader president, may God protect him, has ordered the following:

1. To increase the monthly bonus and allowances for National Assembly members as follows:

A. The net monthly bonus shall be increased to 1,500 dinars.

B. The net allowances shall be raised to 1,000 dinars.

2. The salaries and allowances of the members of the Legislative Council for the Kurdistan Autonomous Region shall be increased as follows:

A. The monthly salary shall be increased to 1,000 dinars.

B. Monthly allowances shall be increased to 500 dinars.

3. This order shall be implemented as of 1 January 1993.

[Signed] Hatim Hamadan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office

High Court Ruling Rejects Deportees' Appeal

TA2212173792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Excerpts] This evening the High Court of Justice unanimously rejected the appeals to bring back the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to Israel. The seven judges ruled that the area where the deportees are staying is Lebanese territory and that responsibility for their well-being lies with the Lebanese Government. Our correspondent Ro'i Grinwald reports from the Supreme Court in Jerusalem:

The seven judges of the High Court of Justice unanimously ruled that the deportees are currently in an area controlled by Lebanon and that the fact that the Lebanese Army does not allow them to move northward does not change this fact. The judges ruled that the fact that the area where the Hamas activists are staying has been blocked by the Lebanese Army does not prove that the area south of it is a no-man's-land or a buffer zone.

The appellants had argued that the deportees are staying in an area over which there is no Lebanese sovereignty, in a sort of buffer zone, and consequently, it is th. duty of the State of Israel to see to their well-being. Attorney Avigdor Feldman argued that owing to the fact that the deportees are not in Lebanon the deportation has not been completed or implemented. From this fact he inferred that the deportees are still under the Israeli Government's jurisdiction. 'Imad Dakkur, Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah's attorney, argued that the lives of the Hamas activists are in danger since they might be fired upon by South Lebanese Army troops and noted that it is Israel's duty to see to their well-being. [passage omitted]

So much for the ruling on the appeal to bring back the deportees. We will now have to wait for the ruling concerning the legality of the deportation orders.

'Text' of Decision

TA2312110192 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 2? Dec 92

["Text" of the High Court of Justice decision of 22 December "regarding the expulsion"; communicated by the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] THE DECISION

1. The petitioners again appealed to the Supreme Court with a plea for an interim order. This order, according to the plea, must relate to the continuing obligation of the state of Israel to continue to care for the lives and existence of the petitioners who were expelled from Israel by the power of the expulsion orders which are the subject of these petitions, against which this court issued an interim order.

2. According to the claim of the learned representatives of the petitioners, the deportees are staying at this time in a sort of buffer zone extending from the security zone in Lebanon, which is under control of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], to that part of Lebanon under the control of the Lebanese government and its authorities, including its army. In other words, since the deportees did not enter territory under Lebanese sovereignty and its effective control, but expulsion was neither completed nor realized, and in addition, the Lebanese publicly announced that they will not permit the deportees to move north via the passes controlled by its forces.

In light of the fact that the deportees are staying in an area which they claim is not under the effective control of Lebanon, they are expected to suffer from shortages, and even danger to their lives and health, unless the duty to ensure their lives and security is upheld in all senses of these concepts. According to the claim under consideration, this duty is still pending on the state of Israel.

The petition is that since the deportees were thrown into a situation whereby they were not allowed to enter Lebanon, they must immediately be returned to Israel, or alternately, measures must be implemented to secure their existence in a protected and safe place until the petition is completely clarified.

3. The state dissents with the factual description presented thereto by the learned representatives of the petitioners. The claim of the state is that the deportees left the area under control of the SLA and IDF at a passage point known as the "Zummarayya" pass and entered Lebanese territory. In this respect, the Supreme Court was informed that after the IDF escort left the deportees at the aforementioned passage point (which also serves the residents of Lebanon requesting to travel from the security zone to other parts of Lebanon), they got on trucks driven by Lebanese drivers, which were placed at their disposal, and travelled north until the point known as Marra'at Bayt Nawfal, where a Lebanese army checkpoint is stationed. They were not allowed to go past this checkpoint, and they returned to the Zummarayya pass, and when they were refused entry back into the security zone, they again returned northward and settled at a place three kilometers north of Zummarayya and closer to Marra'at Bayt Nawfal. It is not known whether the site where they settled was chosen by the deportees themselves or by a Lebanese element.

Regarding the status of the area, this area is not under the control of the IDF, because all of the area north of the security zone is Lebanese territory and is under the authority of its government. The Lebanese army is free to move there as it wishes, although it is somewhat restricted, like in many other places in Lebanon. The IDF has no status there. It does not enter there except if the government decides on a military action north of the security zone directed against terrorists. In principle, this area must be regarded as Lebanese territory. Placing a Lebanese army roadblock in Marra'at Bayt Nawfal does not denote the boundary of Lebanese control, but is rather an action with military-intelligence purposes.

allowing the Lebanese army to observe movement to and from the security zone. The roadblock was placed there owing to tactical reasons—it is not even manned permanently, and is situated where it cannot be seen from inside the security zone.

Since the beginning of the deliberations on the requests, another incident took place on December 21, 1992: The deportees marched towards the Zummarayya pass, warning shots were fired, and the deportees claim, as reported in the international media, that three of them were injured.

We have listened to the statements by Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak. He states that warning shots were fired in order to halt the march of the deportees. If they remain in the camp that they have erected, then by his assessment, they are in no danger.

The IDF has no intention of allowing their return, and the IDF and SLA forces in the area intend to thwart any intention of this kind.

4. In light of the data presented to us, we have reached the following conclusion:

A. The deportees are now in an area under Lebanese control, and the fact that they are not permitted to pass north of the Mazra'at Bayt Nawfal roadblock, does not detract from this fact.

B. Blocking the Mazra'at Bayt Nawfal passage does not indicate that the area south of the said roadblock and north of the Zummarayya pass, is a no man's land, or a buffer zone.

Under these circumstances and in light of the facts presented to us, we see no reason for our intervention. In any case, we saw no reason to issue an order as requested, and the pleas are rejected.

Rabin Pleased With Court Ruling

TA2312065692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Dani Sadc]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is pleased with the High Court of Justice ruling stating that the deportations are legal and that Israel has no obligation to return the deportees to Israeli territory. [passage omitted]

Speaking to our political correspondent, the prime minister said: "I am pleased that the government decision was pronounced legal and that it stood the test of the High Court of Justice." Rabin added that he is at peace with the decision he initiated to temporarily remove the leaders of the radical terrorist organization. "I considered it a necessary step to strengthen security and to ensure the chances of continuing the peace negotiations," he said.

In a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, who came to Israel on an official three-day visit, the prime minister said: I do not expect the world to apply to Israel the same standards it applies to the Arab countries, but the reactions to Israel's decision on the deportations have been totally out of proportion, considering that the world kept silent on the deportation of 300,000 Palestinians from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Peres Welcomes Decision

TA2312074592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has welcomed the ruling of the High Court of Justice not to oblige the government to return the 415 deportees. At the same time, he said, the reverberations of the affair will not be easily forgotten. Our correspondent Yaron Ben-'Ami was speaking to the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is very pleased with yesterday's ruling by the High Court of Justice.

[Peres] It puts a legal seal on the government's action.

[Ben-'Ami] Henceforth, the foreign minister argued, Israel is no longer and in no way responsible for the fate of over 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists as, according to the court's ruling, they are on Lebanese territory. As far as Shim'on Peres is concerned, however, the affair is not yet over and done with from the government's point of view.

[Peres] This affair will continue to have reverberations in the media and around the world, and we will have to cope with the problems ensuing from the government's decision.

[Ben-'Ami] How does one cope with the reactions around the world?

[Peres] I think that ultimately the world will want to be sure of one thing: that the peace process continues and will continue in full intensity. I think this is our main task: to make the world understand that what was done was meant not only not to halt the peace process but to encourage it, seeing that Hamas threatened not only innocent people but also the peace process. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ruling 'Buries' Peace Process

TA2212195992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by territories affairs correspondent Amir Hay; in Jerusalem on 22 December—recorded in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] If Rabin dealt a mortal blow to the peace process and led it to the brink of death, the decision by the Israeli court today buries this peace process.

[Hay] But the High Court of Justice adopted this decision this evening after examining all the legal aspects.

[Al-Husayni] I believe the court's decision failed to take into account the legal aspects, international law, and international norms. It was the result of an Israeli political decision. Everyone knows that this political decision was wrong and represented a crime as far as international law is concerned. Consequently, the Israeli court also became involved today in this wrong political decision.

[Hay] Mr. al-Husayni, a last question. How will the decision affect the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Which peace process? At present no one is talking about the peace process or about a meeting in Washington or elsewhere.

Deportation 'Courageous' Step Against Terror

TA2212140592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Speaking at this morning's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which dealt almost exclusively with the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his view that the Israeli Government's decision on this matter was one of the most courageous steps in the country's war against terrorism. Rabin added that it is inconceivable that the High Court of Justice should not carry powers superior to those of Israel's defense establishment.

Rabin revealed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders signed the deportation orders only after they received full name lists of deportees and heard the opinion of all the relevant defense authorities on each prospective deportee.

As for the destination, Rabin said that the recourse of expelling to Jordan is preposterous, because that country acts against terrorists' attempts to infiltrate into Israel and is itself waging a dire war on Hamas.

Rabin again sharply denounced the Human Rights Association, saying that its sweeping appeal to the High Court had foiled the IDF's plan to deport the 400 men at dawn.

Rabin said he believes the deportation will make it possible to reach the hard core of Hamas.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that replying to Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom's question on why the prime minister had not consulted with the foreign minister on the matter, Rabin said: I was not going to hold a consultation on such a secret matter by phone to Japan, but the Foreign Ministry was involved in every move.

MK Beni Begin cautioned that any discussion of the inclusion of the PLO in the political process at the cabinet meeting tomorrow will send a clear signal to the United States that a dialogue with the PLO is legitimate.

Rabin summed . . saying he has grounds to assume that the peace negotiations will continue. In informal talks, the Arab delegations said they would like to continue the process, but in the recent days they were obliged to side with those denouncing the deportations, Rabin said.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 22 December, in a similar report, quotes Rabin as relating that "he himself had approved the firing of several shells over and beyond the Hamas deportees as they were attempting to return to the security zone. As far as I know, no one was injured, Rabin said; it was all a show."]

Rabin Leadership Questioned Due to Deportation

TA2312151492 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Dec 92 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "The Speech That Never Was"]

[Text] What is most astonishing in this grim deportation affair of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men is not the numerous mistakes committed on the way to a bad decision. Such mistakes have been made before and will continue to be made in the march of folly of every government. What is hard to explain is something else: Why did Yitzhaq Rabin get into it? Why did he get carried away with himself even though he could have avoided such an imbroglio with the same language he is now using to make a flimsy and forced defense of his position? The seemingly simple answer—that he believed the deportations were necessary—is far from being satisfactory.

This is not the first time that Rabin resorts to force because he distrusts his political powers. Skepticism about his analytical powers have become part of Israeli folklore. This time, too, he used those powers, but the problem with his analyses is that they always fail to take into account his own ability to influence. His perception of himself as a leader is somewhat equivocal. Had this approach not led him—and us—to occasional unfortunate decisions, one could even empathize with it: Here is a politician who is afraid of using his vast personal powers.

However, what happens in the end is that Rabin must use his full influence to defend a move that he could have avoided with those exact same powers. The words he used this week to justify the deportations made our ears ring. He called the criticism in the media "crocodile tears," as if he were a muscled and fearless macho man while everybody around him were trembling cowards. He regaled us with his old line about widows and

bereaved parents, as if his critics were less sensitive to grief. And, we still remember how instead of bringing his full influence to bear against the mistaken release of 1,200 terrorists in the deal with Ahmad Jibril in 1985, he recounted how difficult it is for him in his job as defense minister to look the mothers of the POW's in the eye.

The truth is that the whole issue of the deportations did not start with the kidnapping and murder of Staff Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano. It started with the prime minister's capitulation to the sentiment in the street and continued with explanations couched in street language. He shamelessly slandered "the so-called" Human Rights Association. The list of his slips of the tongue grew this week when he uttered the word transfer but immediately—although too late—hastened to retract it. The late Moshe Dayan once said that he was a retroactive politician: he analyzes and expresses himself better in hindsight than in foresight.

In the dangerously loaded case of the deportations Rabin chose to make a fast and rash decision and then put his genius to work to pick up the pieces and offer feeble explanations why there was no other choice. There was a choice. There was a far better alternative, whose success hinged on the same political ability he is using too little and too late now.

His rash decision on the deportations came far from exhausting his potential for leadership. Rabin could have asked for 15 minutes of prime television time to speak to the nation along the following lines: These are hard times. I share the grief of the families and the shock of the public, and I am aware of the voices calling for sharp measures to calm the situation. We considered a massive deportation of activists Hamas, that abhorrent and murderous organization. I would like to tell you why I decided to abstain from such a move, however much it would have satisfied the feelings of revenge and outrage. You know I do not hesitate when it comes to taking a firm hand. I appeal to you tonight to trust the government and my judgment, and I ask you not to stage any riots. I solemnly promise you that we will do everything, and so on and so forth.

Had he done that, a lot would look differently. What did the prime minister and defense minister, still the most popular political figure in our country, think would happen when he pushed for a deportation: Demonstrations outside the house of the Toledano family? A few dozen of Moledet and Kakh provocateurs? After all, the profound outrage felt by the people could easily have been channeled into trust in his judgment instead of living through 24 hours of a total eclipse and an embarrassing fiasco.

This was not the case because of Rabin's chronic blindness toward one of his strongest attributes as a political figure: trust in his influence in times of crisis. Instead of using it, he once again, deplorably, allied himself with the outraged street.

The support of a large majority for the deportations is now being presented as evidence, which is the exact same aberration recurring in decisions as bad as this one: The government loses its cool, humors the public and in exchange gets 80 to 90 percent in the opinion polls. What is so sad is that Rabin missed an opportunity to reverse the order. Instead of humoring the masses, he could have calmed them and won their support with his personal influence and with a well-thought-out, wise, and rational decision.

Rabin Rejects PLO Talks; Cabinet Discusses Peace

TA2312094192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Israel has no intention of negotiating with the PLO and the peace talks will continue only with the Palestinian delegation, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated at this morning's cabinet session, which dealt with the future of the political process. No decisions were adopted, and the debate on the issue will continue on Sunday. Rabin said that those who hope for a change in the format of the peace talks are wrong.

More on Cabinet Discussion

TA2312112492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Israeli cabinet to discuss the peace process ended in Jerusalem a short time ago. The Meretz ministers did not propose direct talks with the PLO in Tunis. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office.

[Raz] The Meretz ministers actually submitted a proposal that might be easier for the government to digest. Minister Ya'ir Tzaban said that although we are talking with the PLO in any case, apparently the time has not yet come for direct talks, and that is why Meretz's proposal was toned down.

[Tzaban] If Israel is not yet ready for direct talks, it must at least relay a message to the PLO that if it plays a constructive role in the next phase of the negotiations by backing the Palestinian delegation, Israel will revise the PLO's future status with regard to its role in the negotiations.

[Raz] In addition to the message it proposes to convey to the PLO, as we have just heard from Minister Tzaban, what Meretz is actually saying is—let me rephrase this: Meretz is not proposing to negotiate with the PLO in Tunis but to talk with representatives from East Jerusalem—the name of Feysal al-Husayni came up—and it is also demanding that the quality of life of the Palestinians in the territories be improved. As may be recalled, Knesset Member Yossi Sarid, chairman of Meretz's Knesset faction, presented the prime minister a detailed document containing a long series of proposals on how to go about improving the lot of the Palestinians in the territories.

Meretz's toned-down proposals did not exactly win over the most hawkish cabinet ministers. For example, Ya'agov Tzur objects to any negotiations with the PLO, and Shim'on Shetrit is also opposed to such a dialogue.

[Shetrit] This Israeli Government was established on the basis of a platform which was presented to the public, and we cannot now present the opposite position and start talking with the PLO through representatives from East Jerusalem or other PLO representatives.

[Raz] The hawks were strengthened by Minister Arye Der'i, a prominent opponent of any dialogue—definitely not at this stage—with the PLO in Tunis.

[Der'i] I voiced my unequivocal position in the cabinet. Such a move would contradict the government's basic guidelines, and we did not join the government on such a basis. More to the point, I firmly stated in the meeting—and I am glad that the prime minister summed up the debate the same way—that there has not and will not be any change in the government position with regard to the PLO in Tunis; the framework of the Madrid conference stands. We will make every possible effort to reach an agreement in principle about the autonomy. Any change involving talks with other leaders in the territories would destroy the two-phased formula.

[Raz] The two-phased formula Der'i mentioned is talking about the implementation of the autonomy within the framework of the interim arrangement first and later discussing the permanent arrangement.

Minister Hayim Ramon reiterated the call that Prime Minister Rabin meet in Jerusalem with the Palestinian delegation to the talks, including its auxiliary members.

Finally, the prime minister asserted that Israel's policy remains that there will be no negotiations with the PLO and that the talks will continue with the Palestinian delegation in its present composition. The prime minister explained, as he has on numerous other occasions, that it is not Israel's business with whom the Palestinian delegates meet—and we have seen pictures of their meetings in Tunis.

Peres Willing To Talk to PLO

TA2312004992 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Dec 92 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] "Israel must enter a dialogue with any Palestinian or any Palestinian organization that expresses a willingness to reach a peace arrangement with it. We no longer should make a geographical or organizational distinction between the Palestinians, as previous governments have." Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told YEDI'OT AHARONOT. These remarks constitute a dramatic change in Israel's position.

Peres voiced a willingness to negotiate with Faysal al-Husayni as the representative of the Palestinians, notwithstanding the fact that previous governments objected to his inclusion in the negotiations on the basis of his being a resident of East Jerusalem. According to Peres, if al-Husayni refrains from associating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], he is fit to negotiate with us. Peres said that the only distinction that should be drawn with regard to the PLO is its willingness to reach a peace agreement with Israel.

In contrast, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not inclined to change the format of the dialogue with the Palestinians or to allow the inclusion of al-Husayni or the PLO in the talks. In his opinion, the formula of the Madrid conference should be adhered to. [passage omitted]

Likud Comments on Debate

TA2312113392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Reacting to this morning's cabinet session, the Likud Knesset faction states that the very fact that the question of contacts with the PLO was raised in the cabinet constitutes a gross deviation from the government's official policy as it was presented to the Knesset. Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that Prime Minister Rabin ought now to appear before the nation and firmly state that he objects to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Peres Sees 'Good Chance' of Talks Continuing

TA2312123892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the peace talks will resume in February, after Jordan, Egypt [as heard], and Syria have announced they will attend the talks. In response to a question regarding his position on the deportations, Peres said: There is no such thing as one minister's stand; there is a collective government stand and I, as a cabinet member, share the responsibility for the government's decisions. Our correspondent Asaf Ya'ari heard Mr. Peres:

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] Foreign Minister Peres sounded optimistic about the continuation of the peace process when the new U.S. Administration assumes its posts:

[Peres] According to information we have, there is a good chance that the peace talks will continue, which I believe is the main consideration.

[Ya'ari] Has the participation of the other parties been guaranteed?

[Peres] Some of them made their stands public: Jordan, Egypt, Syria. The Palestinians have been speaking in two voices, but I believe that they will also come eventually.

[Ya'ari] In a speech to a convention of Druze women in Daliyat al-Karmil, Minister Peres explained the motivation behind the decision to deport the Hamas [Islamic

Resistance Movement] activists and the necessity the government saw in taking this move. At the same time, he avoided reference to his personal stand on this issue.

[Peres] There is no such thing as a minister having a private stand. There is a collective government stand, and I, as a cabinet member, share in the collective responsibility for the government's decisions—period. [end recording]

Christopher Not Seen as 'Israeli Sympathizer'

TA2312052092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem believe that Warren Christopher's appointment as U.S. secretary of state shows that U.S. foreign policy will be conducted by the White House. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Christopher is not considered a man who directs policy, but one who executes it. The secretary of state-designate is *not* considered an Israeli sympathizer, but sources in Jerusalem argue that he is not known to be a supporter of the Arab cause.

Rabin, Peres Agree to UN Envoy's Mission

TA2212174992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] A special UN envoy will come to Israel shortly in the wake of last week's Security Council resolution denouncing Israel for the deportation of over 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today phoned Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and asked Israel's permission to send UN Under Secretary General James Jonah from Sierra Leone. The prime minister and the foreign minister decided to agree to the envoy's arrival, and Foreign Minister Peres informed Butrus-Ghali that the Mr. Jonah would be a welcome guest in Israel.

Forces Kill 6, Injure 15 in Khan Yunus Riots

TA1912161992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Serious clashes between the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF] and many Khan Yunus residents this afternoon left six residents dead and over 15 wounded. Correspondent Moti Amir reports that the curfew on Khan Yunus was lifted in the afternoon to allow residents to buy food, but disturbances broke out immediately and turned into serious rioting. Security forces were attacked with stones and anything else the locals could grab. The IDF commander of the Gaza Strip rushed to the area. To reiterate, Khan Yunus sources said there were six fatalities and over 15 casualties. A curfew was reimposed on the town.

Five cars were torched on 19 December. Two Israeli vehicles were burned in Armenians Street, in the old city. One was destroyed and the other was damaged. Earlier, two cars were torched at the new gate, in East Jerusalem, and a fifth was burned in another part of the city. A border police patrol dispersed dozens of youths who had set up roadblocks and stoned policemen in the Shu'fat refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, by using rubber bullets and tear gas. There were no reports of casualties.

10-Year-Old Boy Killed

TA2112133092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Hayman 'Ammar, a 10-year-old boy from Khan Yunus was killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire. His body was taken to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. This was reported by local residents. They reported that boys had gone out of their houses during curfew and hurled stones at the soldiers. The troops fired at the stone throwers and the boy was killed in the shooting. A representative of the IDF spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that the circumstances of the incident are being investigated. Our correspondent notes that a nine-year-old girl, Amal Abu-Tir, was killed by IDF gunfire during a riot in Khan Yunus on 19 December.

Further Government Reaction to Israeli Deportation

Al-Hirawi Message Reiterates Stand

NC2212175192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi addressed a Christmas message to the Lebanese people today in which he hoped that peace will prevail in the world. He hoped also that the march of development and reconstruction will begin in Lebanon and that the displaced will return to their homes and jobs.

President al-Hirawi emphasized that the unchanged Lebanese decision regarding the Palestinian deportees does not target anyone, stressing that it was taken for the sake of Lebanon and the Palestinians. He noted that the state is strong through its united decision and through its right not to let any one harm the national dignity of the Lebanese.

He stressed that Lebanon is not responsible for the state in which the deportees are living, although it regrets their suffering.

Addressing the world community, al-Hirawi called on the UN Security Council to adopt firm and resolute decisions on the Lebanese complaints about the Israeli attacks. He hoped these decisions will involve sanctions similar to those applied in some other cases of aggression in the region and elsewhere.

Al-Hirawi added: Lebanon is surprised that the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the repeated and successive Israeli attacks lack stipulations forcing the aggressor to respect international law and the independence of the victimized state.

The president concluded that the peace march is stronger than any attempt to drag Lebanon backward. He appealed to Arab kings and presidents to enhance their solidarity with him. He also appealed to the UN Security Council to support Lebanon by forcing Israel to implement Resolution 425, which would enable Lebanon to restore control over all Lebanese territory.

Bawayz on Arab Meeting Plans

NC2212173192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Bawayz has this afternoon declared that Arab consultations are under way to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states taking part in the peace negotiations or of the Arab League Ministerial Council to deal with the issue of the Palestinian deportees.

Chamber Recommends 5 Measures

NC2212190992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Statement by Amin al-Hafiz, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, at a plenary meeting in Beirut on 22 December—announcer read]

[Text] At a session held on 22 December, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies discussed the dangers involved in the new Israeli assault on Lebanese sovereignty and independence through the uprooting of a large number of elite Palestinian strugglers and deporting them by force to Lebanese territories which are under the Israeli enemy's control. This conduct shows Israel's continuous and rude disrespect for international legitimacy and its resolutions, as well as for basic human rights.

Because it supports the government in its nationalist and pan-Arab stand regarding this new assault—which confirms the continuation of the Israeli conspiracy against the Palestinian people and Lebanese sovereignty—the Chamber of Deputies recommends that the government take the following measures:

1. To continue to insist that the fate of the tapered brothers is the responsibility of Israel, which adopted that measure against them in the first place;

2. To proceed firmly concerning enforcing the measures the government adopted to prevent the entry of the deported brothers into Lebanese territories;

3. To insist on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate return of the deportees to their land, and to demand that sanctions be imposed on Israel for its continued defiance of the UN Security Council resolution;

4. To invite the Arab League Ministerial Council to an urgent meeting to adopt the suitable stand; and,

5. To contact Arab and world parliaments and friendly states that always reiterate their concern for Lebanese interests, independence, and sovereignty—particularly the European states and the Vatican—and urge them to take a firm and practical stand on this Israeli assault, which once again indicates an intention to settle Palestinians in Lebanon, keep up the conspiracy against the Lebanese entity, and liquidate the Palestinian cause.

Defense Minister Affirms Stand

NC2312083192 Al-Sahabi Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Minister Mahmu Dallul said last night that Lebanon will not agree to take in the Palestinian deportees under any circumstances. He said that the government's decision on this matter cannot be retracted.

He announced: The Israeli High Court of Justice's decision does not concern or bind us. We do not submit to a

court directed by a Nazi administration. Lebanon will not agree to take the deportees in any form.

He added: We cling to our position because the deportation decision infringes upon our sovereignty and policy of rejecting the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon.

French Refused Visit to Deportees

NC2312074092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] According to press sources, the French Embassy in Beirut contacted the prime minister's office yesterday to brief it on Ambassador Daniel Husson's decision to visit the Palestinian deportees. The Lebanese Government objected to his making such a visit to territory under Israeli occupation and told the French if such a visit was necessary, the French Ambassador to Israel must make it. The government stated that the same applies to international organizations, which have been instructed not to send missions from Beirut to visit the deportees. These organizations were told that such missions must be organized by their accredited offices to the Israeli Government.

Government May Suspend Peace Talks

NC2212123892 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Beirut, Dec 22 (AFP)—The Lebanese government is considering suspending its participation in the Middle East peace talks until Israel takes back 415 fundamentalist Palestinians it deported to Lebanon, MP [member of parliament] 'Ali al-Khalil said Tuesday.

"Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told us about it after a meeting Monday of the (parliamentary) foreign affairs committee," he said.

The Israeli government expelled the 415 Palestinians—members of the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups—to a frozen no-man's-land in Lebanon Thursday, but the Beirut government has refused to admit them.

The parliamentary committee discussed the possibility of calling for a foreign ministers' meeting of the Arab League, al-Khalil said.

Lebanon is determined not to let in the deportees, saying they are Israel's responsibility.

The 415 Palestinians have been stranded since Thursday in an area between Israel's security zone in south Lebanon and the rest of the country.

Three were wounded Monday when the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army opened fire on them as they marched towards an SLA checkpoint in the security zone as ordered by the Lebanese army.

Al-Hariri: Talks Not Suspended

NC2312082092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Commenting on the decision by the Israeli High Court of Justice on the deportation issue, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said that the problem from now on concerns Israel and the Palestinians only.

To a question by AFP, al-Hariri said that Lebanon has not decided to suspend its participation in the peace talks.

Further Reportage on Situation in Buffer Zone

Israelis Reinforce Crossing

NC2212138092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] An Israeli Army unit has replaced the South Lebanese Army [SLA] at the Zammuraya crossing in the south. The Israeli forces brought five Merkava tanks and an armored minesweeper to the site.

Israeli security sources have said that additional forces were transported to Israel's northern border by helicopter and then crossed into the border strip. The sources confirmed the report that Israeli troops armed with tear gas grenades have been deployed in an area close to the Zammuraya roadblock. The Israelis had earlier closed the crossing with earthworks and strong barbed wire inside a ditch to prevent the deportees from returning.

Israeli Officer's News Conference

NC2212153892 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] At a news conference held at the Zammuraya crossing this afternoon, a senior Israeli military officer said the Israeli Army is determined to prevent the deportees from returning, but without harming them physically. For this reason, the Israeli Army has opened fire in the air to warn the deportees not to approach the crossing.

Answering a question, the senior Israeli military officer said: We will remain here as long we are ordered to do so. We have the necessary means to implement our task, which is to prevent the deportees from approaching the crossing. The Israeli officer stressed: Fortunately, no one has been injured by Israeli gunfire.

In reply to another question, he said: Yesterday and the day before, the Lebanese Army attempted to push the deportees toward the border area, but these attempts failed. In general, the deportees have received sufficient food and clothing from the Israeli Army and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Army Reinforced on 'Contact Line'

NC2312094592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The Lebanese Army has reinforced its presence along the contact line in the sector of Marj al-Zuhur, Mimis, and Kafr Mishki. The Army established a new post on the northeastern edge of the village of Mimis, and sent troop and mechanized reinforcements to the contact line extending along 'Ayn 'Ata, Khalawat Sfayr, Mimis, and Marj al-Zuhur.

Reacting to the Israeli Supreme Court's decision supporting the Israeli Government's policy, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official responsible for information at the deportees camp, has stated that he was not surprised by the Supreme Court of Justice's decision. He added: The Supreme Court of Justice has never rejected a decision made by the Israeli Government. We will work by all means to return to our families and land.

The official responsible for supplies at the camp has announced that food and medical supplies are about to run out. He called on the UN Security Council to act quickly to implement its resolution to return the deportees to their homes.

4,000 Palestinians Demonstrate at UN Office

NC2212142292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Some 4,000 Palestinians demonstrated in front of UN offices in Bi'r Hasan in Beirut today, demanding that the deportees be returned to the occupied territories.

The deportees are holding a meeting at their makeshift camp to decide on their next step.

Continuing 'Onslaught' on Lebanon Deplored

PM2212144492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Dec 92 p 17

[Khayrallah Khayrallah article: "Onslaught on Lebanon Continuing"]

[Text] Israel's dumping of some 400 Palestinians on Lebanese territory gives an idea of the scale of the conspiracy to which Lebanon is being exposed and how the interests of certain forces in the region are linked and are aimed at keeping Lebanon an experimental field. The Israeli message is very clear, namely that Lebanon is the right place for any undesirable person, whether in the occupied territories or in Israeli jails. As far as Israel is concerned, Lebanon is not a state, and dumping the deported Palestinians in the "security belt" area perpetuates the Israeli view that Lebanon does not control those who enter its territory just as it does not control those who launch their operations from it.

Thus the Lebanese Government's decision not to receive the deportees assumes exceptional importance, and it is urged to adhere to it, even if the price is a confrontation with Israel which it could lose at the military level, as is well known beforehand, but could contain within itself the seeds for the restoration of independent national decisionmaking, which helps to strengthen the internal Lebanese situation.

What cannot be ignored is that the Lebanese Government is fighting not only on the Israel front, but also on open internal fronts the aim of whose supporters is to support Israel in one way or another, whether or not they know. In such a case it is still better to say that they do not know or realize whether what is required is to safeguard the hope that the Lebanese Government will be able to lay the foundations for the state's new institutions after it has to a large extent succeeded in curbing the dollar and hence the economic deterioration in preparation for launching the rebuilding process.

So was it a coincidence that the recent Israeli step toward Lebanon coincided with the statement made by Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team negotiating with the Lebanese team in Washington, that Resolution 425 has been overtaken by time? And was it a coincidence that the Israeli move coincided with the renewal of calls from certain quarters linked to foreign elements, for the prevention of any step toward rebuilding the commercial center of Beirut and finding practical solutions in the areas surrounding the Lebanese capital so that they can recover their ability to function actively and improve conditions for the citizens residing in these areas? Or is the idea to keep misery linked to Beirut to cause citizens in these areas to believe that there is no hope of a better future for them and their children?

Once again it has become clear how well planned the conspiracy against Lebanon is, and how those who raise the slogans of unsympathy over the government are implicated in this conspiracy, whose first aim is not to enable Lebanon to strengthen its internal situation or restore social peace among its people to begin the rebuilding process and build the Lebanese state's institutions.

And once again it has become clear how Israel is interested in preventing Lebanon from recovering not only its past role, but any role in the region, except the role of an "arena." And Israel is lucky, because there are those who help it in this connection inside Lebanon. Lebanon's bad luck is that there are among its sons some elements refusing to be anything but a tool for foreign elements on the pretext of fighting Israel? It is a continued onslaught on Lebanon.

Israelis Bombard Areas; Militia Position Attacked

NC2212181592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The Israeli occupation troops before noon today bombarded the periphery of the Justice Ministry building in al-Nabatiyah and the Kafr Rumman triangle from their positions in al-Zaffatah. Traffic was jammed along al-Nabatiyah Road and school classes were suspended as a result.

In another development, the Lebanese Resistance Front issued a statement today in which it said that a group of POW's being held in Israeli jails [as heard] carried out an attack at 1300 yesterday against a position held by Israeli agents in al-Qantarah township. The statement added that a 15-minute clash ensued a few meters from the position. Machine guns and rockets were used in the clash, which killed or wounded several of those manning the position.

The statement affirmed that the group returned safely.

Hizballah: Negotiating 'Has Made No Progress'

PM181214392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Dec 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah For Suspension of Negotiations Because They Have Not Borne Fruit"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—In the first meeting of its kind Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz reviewed over two hours with Shaykh 'Ammar al-Musawi, deputy chairman of the Hizballah Politburo, the course of the peace negotiations in Washington.

Al-Musawi said: "It was the first meeting with Minister Buwayz. Discussions dealt with the Washington negotiations, and we expressed our opinion, especially as a year has elapsed since the negotiation process began. Our assessment was that the process has made no progress and borne no fruit, and that suspending the rounds of negotiations could be better than continuing them, as Israel is working to exploit the time factor and the rounds, exerting military pressure to push the Lebanese negotiator into making some concessions."

Asked whether the alternative to suspending the negotiations now is war, not only on the Lebanese front but the Arab front as well, he said: "The negotiations were not launched in the wake of a war for the alternative to them to be war."

Asked whether he had conveyed a particular message to Minister Buwayz, he said: "No. There was an exchange of views. His excellency explained the official view on the issue, and we explained ours and agreed to talk frankly even about what we disagree on."

On Buwayz's request that there should be concord between the resistance and diplomacy, and whether there is coordination, he said: "We emphasized our eagerness to ensure that there is no loophole in the Lebanese position for the Israeli enemy to exploit to exert further pressure on us. With regard to the resistance, it cannot be regulated by law, because in the end it is similar to guerrilla warfare. Nor can the conditions it is experiencing. In the sense that the resistance does not exploit all opportunities all the time. The resistance exploits some opportunities, but this cannot be subject to a particular timing."

He added: "We discussed this issue and agreed to continue to discuss this and other areas. And we emphasized our eagerness to ensure that there is no loophole in the Lebanese position or any hidden or open contradiction between the resistance and the official political position for the enemy to exploit, as it has done on some occasions in the past."

Asked whether there is particular coordination at the military level, he said: "Contacts exists and are continuing on all spheres."

Asked whether there was a link between his visit to Defense Minister Mahsun Dallul and his visit to the foreign minister yesterday, he said: "No. It may have been a coincidence."

Buwayz had met with Chilean Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Jorge Caballero, who will leave in January to take up a new post in his country.

Hizballah, Amal Delegations Discuss Recent Events

NC191208892 Beirut Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] A Hizballah delegation comprising Political Bureau Chief Haj Hasayn Khalil, Deputy Haj 'Ali 'Ammar, and Political Bureau member Shaykh Khidr Nur-al-Din visited Chamber Speaker [and Amal Movement leader] Nabih Birri yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by Haytham Jum'ah, Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman, and Amal Political Bureau members 'Ali 'Akkash and 'Ali al-Khalil.

Speaking after the four-hour meeting, Hizballah Political Bureau Chief Haj Khalil said: Our visit to his excellency the speaker is part of the exchanges we normally hold whenever there is something that merits a meeting of Hizballah and Amal leaders to discuss several topics. Today we have a major event concerning the situation in the region as well as the internal situation, namely, the ill-omened decision by the Zionist enemy government to expel the brother Palestinians in such a dreadful manner.

He noted that this expulsion brings to mind the early days when the Zionist entity was established in 1947 and 1948, when the Zionist gangs expelled and persecuted our people in occupied Palestine. The current situation, he added, is extremely dangerous and will affect the entire region.

Haj Khalil reiterated Hizballah's demand to pull the Lebanese delegation out of the talks. He added: Our demand was not made today; we have been calling for this for a long time. We believe, however, that what happened provides further evidence of the ferocity of this enemy.

Junblatt Comments on Internal Security Situation

PM2212100992 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Dec 92 p 2

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of state for refugee affairs and Progressive Socialist Party leader, by Muhammad Shuqayr and Habib Yunis in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [AL-HAYAH] Let us talk about the work and activities of the government. The government has been given a big political and moral halo. Will that continue, or is it linked to questions of aid and the continuation, or discontinuation, of support for the government? How do you assess the broad outlines of the government's program?

[Junblatt] The broad outlines have been drawn up, but implementation takes time especially when it comes to rebuilding the infrastructures (electricity, water, communications). The broad outlines drawn up are excellent, as in the case of ending Lebanese administrative bureaucracy and the invitation of tenders for communications and electricity work. That is as far as services are concerned. Without the services there can be no development.

As regards the general political line, the government's statement on the south and resolution 425 is, in my view, sound, and I do not understand why some give the matter a different political dimension. Why, for example, should the real estate company be linked to resolution 425? I see no link.

[AL-HAYAH] Some of these people are allies of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] and yourself. There seems to be an antigovernment line there.

[Junblatt] I do not know why. I have no idea.

[AL-HAYAH] Hizballah....

[Junblatt] (Interrupting) We have already said that nobody will touch the weapons of the national and Islamic resistance in the south. I believe that a minimum aid is given to the south through the South Council.... I hope it is functioning properly. The question of the south is linked to a Middle East settlement. The Lebanese and Syrian positions are very sound. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Many people are counting on an improvement in the external circumstances in the spring in a manner that would allow the government to proceed with its administrative work and improvement of its collection of taxes ...but there is need for a new foreign aid boost. That seems to be linked to the peace negotiations, the redeployment of Syrian forces, and other regional matters. What are your expectations in that respect?

[Junblatt] We are waiting for (President-elect) Clinton to assume power. We will then know his policy regarding the solution for the Middle East, but why should matters be linked to redeployment, and why this complex about linking the aid to such redeployment? The Syrian Army is present on Lebanese territory. That presence should be viewed in the same way as the presence of foreign armies—American, French, and British—on Germany. I have not heard anyone in Germany calling for redeployment.

That is a Lebanese-Syrian affair. To those who are upset and hurt I say that that army is helping us at present, even at the security level, pending the rehabilitation of our armed forces, to a certain point, especially our internal security forces. The army should not continue to be engaged in internal security duties such as the pursuit of car thieves, those who cut down trees, and sand thieves. That is not its task. It should be on its barracks and used when necessary. The main solution lies in establishing security in the south.

According to the al-Ta'if agreement, the internal security forces should now replace the army. At present we need the Syrian Army.

[AL-HAYAH] Al-Ta'if agreement also set a deadline for redeployment but that has not been implemented....

[Junblatt] That, if I am not mistaken, is linked to the implementation of the remaining articles of al-Ta'if agreement.

[AL-HAYAH] Such as the abolition of political sectarianism, as Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said?

[Junblatt] That is in some articles, yes, but let the matter remain a Lebanese-Syrian affair. Why should others interfere?

[AL-HAYAH] But some Lebanese circles are demanding redeployment in one way or another.

[Junblatt] Who?

[AL-HAYAH] The Christian forces for instance.

[Junblatt] By God, these are the people who would lose most if the Syrian Army withdrew now. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Al-Ta'if agreement provides for the creation of a senate. Why has that issue not been raised? We believe it concerns you.

[Junblatt] It concerns everyone. That comes after the first chamber of deputies elected on a nonsectarian basis. Now a national committee should be formed to tackle the issue of abolishing political sectarianism.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you support the abolition of political sectarianism so quickly?

[Junblatt] The issue must be addressed. It cannot be ignored. A national committee must be formed and must be impartial. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Is your call for the post of president of the republic to continue to be held by a Christian meant to reassure the Christians?

[Junblatt] Yes, I have no objection. Let there be a general national agreement on this. Let him be a Christian, not just a Maronite. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Are there any attempts to bridge the gap between you and the opposition?

[Junblatt] Do you want me, Walid Junblatt, to revive the issue of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces? Do you not know how we dispensed of that issue? Do you want me to forget my views and my positions? Do you not know how that party, which brought devastation to this country, was contained? Do you want me to have a dialogue with it? Am I crazy?

[AL-HAYAH] Where is the reconciliation then?

[Junblatt] Who said that I wanted reconciliation with those? What for?

[AL-HAYAH] With whom then?

[Junblatt] There are political forces which cooperate. On what basis do you want me to be reconciled with the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces? Can I possibly forget the old legacy? It is not a question of reconciliation. There is opposition and there is loyalty and a political movement on the basis of which we operate. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Hezb-e-Eslami Attacks Defence Ministry Forces

BK2212134492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 22 Dec 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 22 (AFP)—Fighting flared in Kabul late Tuesday [22 December] on the road running east to Pakistan from the Afghan capital, as rebel faction Hezb-e-Eslami Mojahedin attacked Defence Ministry forces for a second day.

Units of Pashtun hardliner Gulbeddin Hekmatyar's Hezb pressed Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's ethnic Tajik Shura-i-Nazar forces dug in with tank support on the Jalalabad highway, just two kilometres (one mile) from the city limits.

Rocket artillery and machinegun fire echoed across the capital from late afternoon, as pedestrians scattered and vehicles were turned away from the roundabout leading out of town.

The Hezb, who attacked the Kabul Customs Post and cut off the main route to Jalalabad early Monday morning, appear now to be consolidating their hold on this strategic highway after a day of inactivity.

A senior Defence Ministry spokesman gave credence to widespread rumours of a secret alliance between Hezb-e-Eslami and the ex-communist Uzbek militia strongman General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

"Three days ago, Hekmatyar, a representative of General Dostam, and a representative of the Hezb-e-Wahdat faction had an important meeting," said the Defence Ministry official.

He claimed that the conspirators had agreed on a plan to attack Kabul, the main thrust of which was to be against the Customs Post on the Jalalabad highway.

An alliance between Hekmatyar and Dostam could not be confirmed and in the past they have been implacable enemies.

Hekmatyar attacked Kabul last August with a punishing rocket bombardment, mainly over the presence of Dostam's ex-militia in the capital.

Witnesses to today's fighting said there was no participation by Dostam troops, who are stationed close by the conflict on Maranjan Hill and in the old Microrayan government housing estate.

Dostam soldiers and Defence Ministry forces eye each other from 100 metres (yards) distance across the Kabul River at Microrayan, but both sides are relaxed and as yet have not engaged in hostilities.

"By the grace of God everything is normal here," said a group of Dostam soldiers in a foxhole by the river.

Defence Ministry forces at the roundabout facing east to the H.zb attack are standing-to in freshly dug trenches with stacks of RPG-7 anti-tank rockets and cannisters of Kalashnikov ammunition at the ready.

A giant plume of black smoke was seen rising from the area of the Customs Post and rockets were streaking across the sky, witnesses reported.

The Afghan election called Shura Hal-va-Aqd, which convened Monday to choose Afghanistan's new president, did not meet today.

Western diplomats here expressed concern that this new outbreak of fighting could jeopardise the Shura election thereby leaving the country in a power vacuum and one step closer to full civil war.

Parties Boycott Resolution and Settlement Council

LD2212202692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The official in charge of the political commission of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami of Afghanistan said the party has boycotted the Council for Resolution and Settlement and no representative from this party will participate in the meetings of the council.

Speaking to an IRNA reporter, he accused the Jami'at-e Eslami of Afghanistan of gathering a group of its supporters from various parts of the country in order to take over the Council for Resolution and Settlement. He emphasized that the nature and the activities of the council are not approved by the majority of Jihadi groups, including the Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami.

It should be pointed out that besides Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, the Hezb-e Eslami of Hekmatyar, the Jonbesh-e Melli Eslami-e Shomal-e Afghanistan, Harekat-e Enghelab-e Eslami, and Hezb-e Eslami Yunis Khales have boycotted the Council for Resolution and Settlement.

India

BJP Asks To Allow Worship at Ayodhya Temple

BK2312090292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned till 1400 today amid noisy scenes over the issue of allowing worship at the disputed site at Ayodhya. The trouble started soon after the house took up for discussion the statutory resolutions seeking approval of the house of the proclamation of the president's rule in the four BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-ruled states. The Congress-I member, Mr. Jivaratnam, was called by the deputy speaker, who was in the chair, to speak, but Swami Chinmayananda, BJP, was on his feet requesting the government to allow worship at Ayodhya. When the home minister tried to reply, the BJP members protested against their members not being allowed to speak and moved into the well of

the house. After much persuasion by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and the minister of state, Mr. P. Kumaramangalam, the BJP members resumed their seats. By then, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, occupied the chair and asked Mr. Jiwanmum to continue.

After his speech, Swami Chinmayananda, who was allowed to speak, pleaded with the government to allow worship at the disputed site at Ayodhya as the curfew has been lifted in the area. He said there is a court order that the worship at the place should not be hindered. As soon as he finished his speech, BJP members insisted that the home minister, who was present in the house, should immediately respond to the request. They also moved into the well of the house, demanding an immediate response from Mr. Chavan. As order could not be restored, the speaker adjourned the house for an hour.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed a walkout by the BJP members immediately after the house assembled for the day today over the issue of worship at Ayodhya. A BJP member alleged that worship is not being allowed at the temple after the 8th of this month. The National Front, left, and the JD-S [Janata Dal-Samajwadi] asked the Center not to take a hasty decision in the matter. They said nobody should be allowed intrusion in the area in the name of worship. The minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, said it is too early for the government to react as the entire area is under curfew. Not satisfied with the reply, BJP staged a walkout. When the house witnessed noisy scenes again, the chairman, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, described it as most disappointing and said the business has been obstructed enough during the session and sought the cooperation of the members to go ahead with some urgent business on the last day.

Pakistan Assembly Discussion of Ayodhya Criticized

BK2212155592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] India has criticized the Pakistan National Assembly move to discuss for two days the Ayodhya incident as gross interference in its internal affairs. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the Pakistan Assembly has no locus standi to discuss or [word indistinct] judgment on this or any other internal matter of India.

Congress-I Vows To Fight Communal Forces

BK2212161692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The Congress-I has offered to work with other secular parties to fight communal forces in the country. Addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPPI] meeting in New Delhi today, the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called for adjustments with secular parties, while sticking to the Congress-I principles. Mr. Rao said the Congress-I Working Committee, which is meeting on Thursday [24 December] will come out with a concrete program to fight the communal forces.

The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, quoted Mr. Narasimha Rao as saying that the Congress-I should fight the communal forces not in the streets, but in the minds of the people.

Reiterating that the Congress-I stands for construction of Ram mandir [temple] and the masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya, he gave a clarion call to the partymen to fight the communal forces and to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. Mr. Rao urged the party members to clear the misunderstanding created by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] that the Congress-I is opposed to the construction of a Ram temple. Visualizing the next two months as crucial, Mr. Narasimha Rao called upon the partymen to stand by the principles of democracy, secularism, and the unity and integrity of the country.

Referring to the Ayodhya issue, Mr. Rao said the issue has to be solved once and for all. He called upon the Congressmen to create an atmosphere conducive to the settlement of the Ayodhya issue. Mr. Narasimha Rao compared the incidents at Ayodhya on the sixth of this month with the situation faced by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 during the Chinese aggression.

Mr. Rao declared that even if the country's economy is shattered, the nation will prove to the world that it can pull together despite such challenges.

After the general body meeting of the CPPI, the party president has started meeting all the Congress-I MP's statewide to discuss the present issues before the country. Today MP's [members of parliament] from Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and Karnataka met him. The MP's from the rest of the states and union territories would be meeting him tomorrow.

Rao Says Next 2 Months 'Crucial' for Country

BK2212125092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1250 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Narasimha Rao says the next two months are going to be crucial for the country and the Congress-I has to work with other parties to fight communal forces. Addressing the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in New Delhi today, the party president said Congressmen will have to accept some adjustments of other parties while sticking to the party's principles and keeping its own identity. He said the Congress-I should fight the communal forces not in the streets, but in the minds of the people by clearing the misunderstanding that the party is opposed to the Ram temple [in Ayodhya].

Pointing out that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has already started a whispering campaign in Uttar Pradesh that the Congress-I is opposed to the construction of the Ram mandir [temple], Mr. Narasimha Rao called upon the partymen to face this challenge squarely and expose the communal character of the BJP.

Reiterating that the Congress-I stands for construction of Ram mandir and the masjid [mosque] in Ayodhya, he gave a clarion call to the partymen to fight the communal forces and to maintain the unity and integrity of the country.

Commentary Welcomes Defeat of No-Confidence Motion

BK2212120892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0345 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Commentary by Vettie Sylvan of All India Radio]

[Text] The clear and unequivocal rejection by the Lok Sabha of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-sponsored no-confidence motion against Narasimha Rao government has wide ramifications. First, it has shown that for the first time several opposition parties apart from the BJP and the Shiv Sena have joined hands with the Congress-I on a common secular platform. Secondly, the BJP has been clearly isolated on national politics as far as the question of secularism is concerned. Yesterday's no-confidence vote was the third during the 18 month's existence of the government. A similar motion was rejected in the last session of the Lok Sabha.

The three-day marathon debate in the Lok Sabha on the no-confidence motion brought the emerging trend toward polarization of various political parties to counter communalism and fundamentalism despite their inherent ideological differences. The left parties notwithstanding their opposition to the Congress-I's new economic policies have offered support to Mr. Narasimha Rao on the question of secularism, the basic spirit of the country's constitution.

During the debate, the former prime ministers, Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Chandra Shekhar, came down heavily on the government for its alleged failure to protect the Babri Masjid [mosque]. The leaders of the left parties were also categorical in their opinion that the prime minister cannot altogether disown his responsibility. However, the National Front and the Left Front combine turned their ire against the BJP and its allies for threatening the very foundation of the nation.

The defeat of the no-confidence motion is a pointer toward the coming together of secular forces to fight the common enemy of communalism despite the differences over other issues. The defeat of the no-confidence motion in that light may be a watershed in India's national politics.

'Dreaded Militant' Among 3 Killed in Punjab

BK2112085092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] In Punjab, a dreaded militant, Lakhwinder Singh alias Lakha, was killed in an encounter with security forces on Tarn Taran area of Amritsar district last night. According to police sources, Lakha was responsible for over 200 killings and was carrying a reward of 5 lakh rupees on his head. Elsewhere in the state, two militants were killed in Batala area of Gurdaspur District last night.

Daily Says PRC To Train Punjab Militants

BK2112142892 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 9 Dec 92 p 7

[From Harpreet Singh]

[Text] Jallandhar, Dec. 8—The Inter-Service Intelligence [ISI] of Pakistan has reportedly collected nearly 40 militants from Punjab at Faizal town in Lahore for being trained by Chinese officials. Arrangements have been made for imparting a "new kind of training" to the militants, keeping in view the setbacks suffered by them in the recent months.

The ultras from Punjab have reportedly confabulated with the Chinese officials, who have recently come to Pakistan and have revealed to them the new tactics adopted by the security forces and the disillusionment of the masses with the "Khalistan" movement.

According to highly placed sources, the Chinese team has advised the militants to refurbish their image, to keep a low profile for the time being and to forge unity among the various outfits. The militants have been asked to attack selected targets only. They have also been urged not to kill innocent people, as it is bringing a bad name to them.

Among the important functionaries of the terrorist outfits who are attending the camp at Faizal town are Wadhawa Singh Babbar, Mehal Singh Babbar, Balwinder Singh Billa (KLF) [Khalistan Liberation Force], Narain Singh Chaura and Jagender Singh Canadian. Activists of the International Sikh Youth Federation from the UK and Canada are also reported to have come to Lahore to give special instructions to their colleagues.

The ISI agents, on the other hand, are upset with the ultras for not being able to create "chaos" in Punjab, despite the monetary and physical help given to them.

The continuing successes of the security forces against the militants have demoralised the Pakistani agents who have therefore called the Chinese armymen to give a new direction to the terrorist movement in Punjab.

In mid-October this year, three top militants from Punjab were taken to China by ISI men, where they had a meeting with top Chinese officials. The Punjab militants who attended the meeting were Wassan Singh Zaferwal, Daljit Singh Bitta and Gurbachan Singh Manochahal. Zaferwal had reached China from Pakistan with ISI officers while Manochahal, Daljit Singh Bitta reached China via Nepal.

The militants reportedly urged the officials to support them and to help them in crossing over to India from the Nepal border. They also placed a man in Nepal to send them weapons from the border, with the help of Chinese armymen.

The officials showed a keen desire to assist the militants and the visit of a top-ranking Chinese team to Lahore is, probably, the result of the meeting held in mid-October.

Meanwhile, Wassan Singh Zafarwal, who had flown to England after he had a tiff with ISI men, is said to have returned to Pakistan. The ISI had wanted Zafarwal to go to India and reorganise the militants, but he was reluctant to do so. Zafarwal was, therefore, sidelined by the Pakistan Government and preference began to be given to Daljit Singh Bittu.

Moreover, Zafarwal had to go to England, because the funds which were being channelised to the terrorist groups in Pakistan through various Sikh organisations had been stopped. According to confidential reports, Zafarwal used to get nearly Rs [Rupees] 6 crore in foreign currency for purchasing weapons and for other purposes. The weapons were being purchased from Darra in North-West Frontier Province.

Zafarwal had therefore gone to England to revive channels for the funds which had been stopped. Reports indicate that he has succeeded in influencing the Sikh groups abroad to keep on supporting them financially.

A militant, who was recently apprehended by the security forces while trying to cross over to India from the Rajauri sector, revealed that the ISI men were desperately trying to send as many weapons as possible into India.

He admitted during his course of interrogation that Dera Sahib, Lahore and Dera Bai.. Nanak, Kartarpur, were the dens of terrorists, where the ISI men and Punjab terrorists chalked out their future plans. He also revealed the presence of Chinese men in Lahore who had recently come to impart training to Punjab terrorists.

Iran

Turkmenistan's Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD2212164392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Khalykberdi Atayev, foreign minister of Turkmenistan, arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking political delegation. In an interview with correspondents he described the expansion of all-round cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan as important and described this as an important step in widening regional cooperation.

Meets With Foreign Minister

NC2312085292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Turkmen Foreign Minister [Khalykberdi] Atayev met with our foreign minister yesterday afternoon. During this meeting, the Turkmen foreign minister said: Turkmenistan attaches special importance to the expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also said that constructing a railway, laying a gas pipeline, planning for water reservoirs, and constructing roads are joint projects between Iran and Turkmenistan.

During the meeting, Velayati mentioned the consolidation and closeness of relations between the two countries and said: The two countries are well coordinated in regional cooperation. Our foreign minister also described the expansion and upgrading of cooperation among regional countries, especially in the Economic Cooperation Organization and Caspian Sea littoral Countries Committee, as significant in overcoming problems.

Confers With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD2312113692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Mr. Khalykberdi Atayev, foreign minister of Turkmenistan.

In the meeting the foreign minister of Turkmenistan said the friendship between Turkmenistan and Iran is significant in creating friendly cooperation among other countries of the region.

He said the meetings between the Iranian and Turkmen presidents, in Ishkabad and Tehran were very fruitful.

He said the plan for the construction of a railway between the two countries, which was among the agreements reached between the presidents of the two countries, is very significant for the Central Asian countries and their neighbors. The plan for the construction of the pipeline for the transfer of Turkmen gas to other countries via Iran is of particular interest to the president and the people of Turkmenistan. The foreign minister of Turkmenistan reported on the current situation of Turkmenistan and announced the interest of his government in the expansion of economic and political relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic of Iran is extremely pleased that the newly independent countries have gone through an important stage of their independence. He said that Iran is optimistic about the future of these countries—particularly the friendly country of Turkmenistan—and about expanding closer relations with them.

The president pointed to the favorable conditions for cooperation between the two countries and expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation will make a more practical advance.

Concluding, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed concern over the issues of Tajikistan and said our country must help so that the Tajikistan people can solve their own problems without foreign interference or agitation.

Velayati Calls Turkmenistan Relations 'Important'

LD1212123092 Tehran IRNA in English 0917 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 12, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has termed relations between Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan as "very important."

Velayati was addressing here Thursday [10 December] the graduation ceremony of seven Turkmen diplomats who passed the second three-month training course for foreign diplomats.

He stressed that such courses would provide an opportunity for Turkmen diplomats to become further acquainted with Iran and would also provide effective means for the neighbouring friendly countries to approach Iran.

Referring to the growing call from other neighbouring states for attending similar courses in Iran, the foreign minister expressed hope that Tehran would be able to respond positively by upgrading the courses both in terms of quality and quantity.

He added that some other diplomats from Lebanon and the Republic of Azerbaijan would be dispatched to Iran in a near future to attend the courses.

The Turkmen ambassador here Atta Charyyev who was also present on the occasion, said that since diplomats were architects of international relations, therefore, Ashgabat hoped that Turkmen diplomats trained in Iran could play an "effective" role in strengthening bilateral relations.

Opposition on Regime's Support for Terrorism Abroad

NC1312134192 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p 5

[Interview with Sayyed Mohaddesin, head of the Foreign Relations Department in the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and its "quasi-foreign minister," by Sharif al-Shubashi in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Shubashi] The mullahs' regime, as you have said, is seeking to export what they call the Islamic revolution outside Iran. Do you have any specific information on this?

[Mohaddesin] Yes. The leaders of all the extremist trends in the region are based in Iran, where they are trained in handling weapons and carrying out terrorist operations. The mullahs' regime has established a tight setup to attain this end, which is assigned to the Revolution Guards Corps [RGC], better known as Pasdaran, the striking force of the Iranian regime. The RGC is divided into four sections: air, land, naval, and the Quds Troops. The latter refers to troops who operate outside the border and have bases both inside and outside Iran.

These troops are divided into specific groups or corps for each country in which they operate. For instance, there is a corps for Lebanon, one for Sudan, an African corps, etc. The main training center for the Quds Troops is at Imam 'Ali University [Jami'at al-Imam 'Ali], which is based in Sa'dabad Palace. This palace was used by the shah and is in northern Tehran. At Imam 'Ali University, the students are trained to carry out military and terrorist operations and are indoctrinated on ideology to prepare them psychologically and physically to perform any operation abroad. The university is chaired by Mohammad Shams, who is a general in the Iranian Army, and his deputy is another general called Aruj. The commander of the Quds Troops is General Ahmad Vahidi, who used to be head of the Information Department in the RGC General Command and whose mission was to export terrorism abroad.

At this university, people of various nationalities are being trained, including Egyptians, Lebanese, and even Saudis. These Saudis were taken abroad, then they entered Iran using Syrian passports and joined Imam 'Ali University. This university operates training centers in several governorates, most importantly in Qom, Tabriz, and Mashhad. There are other training camps and centers outside Iran, such as in Sudan and Lebanon, and training there is provided by Pasdaran officers from the Quds Troops. There is a secret budget for all these operations provided by the office of 'Ali Khamene'i (Islamic revolution guide in Iran). These funds are not accounted for in the regime's general budget and no one knows anything about them. The budget of this apparatus has increased considerably in the past months. For example, they doubled the budget of Lebanon's Hizballah. Their followers in Jordan and the Hamas Palestinian organization recently were granted $20 million following a visit by their representatives to Tehran. [passage omitted]

As a result of this deteriorating situation, approximately 1,000 demonstrations and strikes took place this year throughout the country, some of which constituted an strong electric shock to the regime. But the mullahs' regime failed to learn from them the need to pay attention to what is happening at home. Instead, this consolidated their belief that the only way out is to export these crises.

[Al-Shubashi] It is evident that there is a power struggle between Khamene'i and [Iranian President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani. What is the scope of this struggle?

[Mohaddesin] There is indeed a power struggle, but it is only over power. There is not much difference between Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Hashemi-Rafsanjani managed to lead a coalition to exclude the so-called Imam Khomeyni wing, but the disintegration of this coalition enabled Khamene'i to hold the reins of power and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's influence has started to wane. [passage omitted]

You in Egypt must realize that the regime in Tehran is very interested in Egypt and in destabilizing it and seizes any opportunity to do so. Taking advantage of the earthquake disaster, it activated its agents during these difficult circumstances and sent them money by various

means to move within the Egyptian people's circles and exploit the earthquake disaster.

Paper Assails Western Media Propaganda

LD2012175992 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN said in an article Sunday [20 December] that the reflection in the Western media of Iran being a serious threat to peace in the region is a scandalizing propaganda for falsely alarming the Arab states against an enemy which does not really exist.

It said the current wave of propaganda in the Western media is designed and engineered mainly by the United States in a bid to divert the attention of the Arab governments from the Zionist regime.

The daily said the current scenario is one for exerting pressure on Iran and for making the Islamic Government abandon its ideals and opt for a policy of appeasement with Washington so that the latter would lead Iran on a course along its own "dirty and satanic goals."

It noted that the Arab governments were dissatisfied with the process of talks with the Zionist regime, and that to save the talks the United States is trying to alarm the Arab governments of a false enemy as substitute for the Zionist regime.

"Peoples in the Persian Gulf states are against the presence in the region of the foreign forces and the portrayal of Iran as an enemy offers the Western governments a good excuse for the presence of their military forces in the Persian Gulf", said KEYHAN.

"While in Egypt", it pointed out "public opposition is daily increasing since after the humiliating Camp David agreement the Egyptians have learned that they are treading a course along the dictates of the West."

The commentary noted that by depicting Islamic Iran as an enemy in the region, the Husni Mubarak regime will have a good excuse for suppressing the Muslim and revolutionary people of Egypt.

"Certain Arab regimes attribute the awakening of their masses to provocative acts by Iran, whereas the fact is that the Muslim peoples in those countries have woken up from their slumber and are looking to a genuine, unadulterea Islam which fact, has panicked those leaders," concluded KEYHAN.

Meaning of Fundamentalism Distorted by West

NC1812170492 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Dec 92 p 20

[Sa'id Khakrand commentary: "Yes, We Are Fundamentalists"]

[Text] One of the ploys that world arrogance has used in the past to inflict blows on Islamic movements and the Islamic revolution has been its extensive cultural onslaught.

With the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the culmination of the Islamic movement throughout the world, international despotism started its offensive in all fields against this enlightening uprising and mobilized most of its forces to hide facts and distort the face of the leaders of this uprising. Within this context, it portrayed each and every justice-seeking and justice-demanding movement as terrorism and described Islamic thoughts that do not conform with its hegemonistic objectives as fundamentalism. It thus made this word synonymous with bloodshed and violence and with dogmatism that is contrary to any human logic. Unfortunately, by using this pressure lever it also scored some successes, and some Islamic groups, affected by the inculcations by the complicated propaganda system of the West, tried to erase this brand[1]—fundamentalism—from their names. By deviating from Islamic principles and aspirations, they tried not to be associated in international circles with fundamentalists.

International despotism has injected the word fundamentalism in the minds of Western public opinion in such a way that each time this word is used to describe an individual, group, or country it becomes a license to crush, annihilate, attack, and apply pressure. World arrogance and its allies have adopted a strong approach against even those countries in which Islamic forces have resorted to Western democratic processes in elections and have scored spectacular political successes. In some countries they have never granted Islamic forces permission for political activities within the framework of law. The experience of the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, which managed to win a majority of the vote in popular elections, is the best example of the fact that arrogance opposes Islamic thought. In countries like Sudan, where Islamic forces managed to gain power, we see how world arrogance and its allies like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, etc. are strongly opposing and pressuring these forces.

In tandem with the opening up of the political atmosphere for the liberal, secular, and pro-Western groups in Egypt by Mubarak's regime, we are witnessing the violent suppression of Islamic elements and forces. Mubarak's regime does not even grant liberal Islamic groups the right to engage in any type of formal and overt political activities within the framework of Egypt's laws.

With the disintegration of the Marxist empire and the liberation and independence of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, we are witnessing how the Islamic forces in Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, etc. have been under severe pressures and suppression on the pretext of being fundamentalist.

During the past few weeks, as part of the propaganda onslaught against Iran, countries such as Egypt, Algeria, etc. have named Iran as the main instigator of the

Islamic (and, in their view, fundamentalist) forces in their countries. Within this context, bilateral meetings to coordinate activities and to confront the so-called threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been held.

Over the past few days we have heard reports that the representatives of certain Arab countries such as Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Oman, etc. met in Cairo to take security measures in a bid to confront the threat of fundamentalism in their countries. The first result of these measures was the attack by 14,000 Egyptian security forces on Islamic activists and the arrest and detention of hundreds of them. In the near future we will witness more results of this meeting in other countries!!

The main threat is not the fact that the security forces of dependent regimes attack active elements and forces of Islamic groups or that international despotism introduces Islamic groups to public opinion in the West as elements responsible for tension, instability, and violence. The main threat is in that this destructive propaganda, these misleading inculcations, and this propaganda bombardment may affect Islamic elements and activists and distract them from their Islamic and traditional values and aspirations so that they can avoid being branded as fundamentalists!! Unfortunately, examples of this impact can be seen among some of the Islamic groups in the region. But we should understand as best we can that if we do not become one hundred-percent dependent on arrogance, the West and arrogance will not give up. The Koran says:

"Never will the Jews or the Christians be satisfied." If fundamentalism is what the West and world arrogance have falsely described as bloodshed, murder, assassination, and violence, then undoubtedly it is only world arrogance and the despotic regimes dependent on the West that are fundamentalists!!

But if fundamentalism means devotion to Islamic values, faith in justice-seeking aspirations, struggling against world arrogance and international despotism, implementing Islamic laws and decrees, promoting social justice, and struggling against imperialism and Zionism, then this word acquires a very beautiful meaning. On this basis, we and all the justice-seeking and God-seeking strugglers are fundamentalists and are not at all afraid of the savage propaganda onslaught and the extensive blackmail by world arrogance and its minions.

Yes, we are fundamentalists.

Pakistan

President Addresses Parliament on Current Issues

BK2212144092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has called for settling political issues through political institutions. Addressing the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad today, the president said Parliament is the best forum for this purpose as such settlements alone are enduring and enjoy the people's approval and support.

He said we have not yet developed a democratic culture characterized by accommodation, tolerance, largeheartedness, and mutual respect. We have not yet been able to establish healthy enough traditions in our democratic institutions. The president said at times we have held personal animosities and party concerns over national interests and quite often resorted to a confrontational course putting aside the golden principles of (?further) discussion and reasoned dialogue. He said whatever the reasons and whosoever to blame, this behavior did not remain confined to the House and was taken to the streets. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said there is a constitutional way of affecting a political change.

Underlining the need for promoting and strengthening the democratic order in the true sense, the president called for devising a satisfactory mechanism to check the massive use of wealth in elections and to keep election expenses within a reasonable limit. He urged the legislators to review the present electoral laws with a view to making the election process more effective and representative so that ordinary people can also reach Parliament.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said negative politics and confrontation may eventually affect the credibility and efficacy of democratic institutions, but there appears to be no reason to harbor doubts and apprehensions about their future. He said if the general standard of political ethics prevalent in the world and problems inherited from the past are kept in view, the performance of the present democratic institutions could not be called unsatisfactory. He noted that during the last one year 95 bills were presented in Parliament out of which 35 were passed. The president said the people have sent elected representatives to the Parliament and the nation expects greater sobriety, deftness, and tolerance from them. The elected representatives should come up to their expectations. Similarly, the ever growing complaint of lack of quorum does not leave a good impression on the people.

On law and order situation in the country, the president said rising above political expediencies and considerations, the government launched Operation Cleanup in Sindh and took legal and administrative steps required for its success. By the grace of Allah, the operation has yielded positive results.

The president also lauded the government's efficiency for quick relief and rehabilitation of flood effected people.

About economic situation, the president said the government has registered a notable performance. Economic reforms and measures indicate a healthy trend. The president specially mentioned increase in GDP [Gross Domestic Product] from 5.6 percent to 6.4 percent last year. He also called for more efforts to strengthen the economy and urged for changing our lifestyle.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan underlined the need for more efforts to solve social sector problems like population growth. He called for more measures for eliminating corruption, nepotism, and other social evils from society and ensuring the more respectable place for women in society.

The president said Kashmir is the biggest and most sensitive issue between India and Pakistan and there can be no regional peace without its resolution. He described the desecration of Babri Masjid [mosque in India] as an abhorrent act. He said it is a challenge to the religious honor and pride of one billion Muslims. The president said protection of minorities is our constitutional, humanitarian, and Islamic obligation. He said it is regrettable that some people could not control their emotions in the face of the Babri Masjid tragedy and ignored the demands of our religious tolerance.

Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan specially referred to the events in Bosnia-Hercegovina and said the situation there is a challenge to the Muslim world.

Assembly Discusses Indian Mosque Demolition

BK2212150292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly began its 15th session in Islamabad this afternoon. Speaking on a motion on the demolition of Babri Masjid [mosque] and killing of thousands of Muslims in India, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, said the issue of Babri Masjid has caused great pain and anguish to the entire nation. He said it is time to rise above party politics and join hands in evolving a common and united stand. He said the Muslims of India are undergoing the most traumatic phase in their history and we should not fail to send a clear signal that the entire Muslim ummah [community] shares grief and anguish at this hour. He said the whole world has witnessed that the Indian authorities have miserably failed to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities toward the Muslim minority and to comply with the injunctions of their own Supreme Court.

IJI, Allies Have 'Complete Support' for Sharif

BK2212150092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary party and its allies through a unanimous resolution have expressed complete support to the polices of the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and confidence in his leadership. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, chaired the meeting in Islamabad today, which lasted about 90 minutes. The resolution noted that the policies pursued vigorously by the prime minister aim at progress and prosperity of the country and its people. The resolution approved and supported the precautionary administrative measures taken by the government to tackle the undemocratic and illegal agitation of the opposition. It expressed satisfaction that the people have appreciated the actions and policies of the government and have thus totally rejected the negative and agitational politics of the opposition.

The resolution noted that the steps taken by the prime minister to tackle the Babri Masjid [mosque] issue domestically and internationally are correct and a reflection of the sentiments of the people. The resolution appreciated the timely measures taken by the government under direct supervision of the prime minister himself to compensate and rehabilitate the people affected by floods in various parts of the country. These measures, the resolution noted, are undoubtedly unprecedented and evidence of the fact that the elected government fulfill this responsibility toward the general public for the first time in the country's history. The common man have wholeheartedly welcomed and supported the measures taken by the government to navigate the sufferings of the flood-affected people.

Earlier, addressing the meeting, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said the agitational campaign launched by the opposition for creating confusion and anarchy in the country has met its logical fate as it was devoid of support of the people in the country. He said the failure of the opposition tactics is evident from the level of frustration prevailing in the opposition camp. The prime minister said the IJI government has allowed unhindered political activity as long as it was within the ambit of law and the constitution. No civilized nation can allow the call given by a political party to overthrow a legally-elected government by violent means and endangering the life and property of the people. In view of the confrontational attitude of the opposition, the government took suitable measures in the larger interests of people's safety and succeeded in controlling the situation without any untoward incident. He informed the senators and MNA's [Member of National Assembly] that the negative thinking of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leadership has started discrediting them in the eyes of the people and people have realized that they are out to disrupt the development work initiated by the IJI government.

The prime minister also apprised the meeting of the government position on Babri Masjid issue and his visit to Japan, which he said was successful. Pakistan's position on the peaceful use of nuclear technology and declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone has been appreciated by the Japanese leaders. He said leading Japanese businessmen would soon visit Pakistan to study the investment climate. The meeting expressed satisfaction over the outcome of this visit.

Sharif Decries PDA Absence From Parliament

BK2212144892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Talking to newsmen after the joint sitting of parliament, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] has no justification to remain absent from the joint session. He said PDA

should have attended the joint sitting and tried to make amends for their unruly behavior during the presidential address last year. This was also a chance for them to improve their image. PDA had made no effort to promote parliamentary traditions, the prime minister added.

About the president's suggestion to amend electoral law, the prime minister said it is an excellent suggestion. Parliament also feels the need for such an amendment and the two houses could have consensus over it. He said the amendment is in the interest of the nation. About the Islamization process, the prime minister said the present parliament has already passed the Shariat [Islamic law] Bill. Two separate commissions are working to frame practicable proposals for Islamizing educational and economic systems. The government would accord special attention to the suggestions of the Council of Islamic Ideology.

To a question about the recent interview of opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto to a U.S. television network, NBC, the prime minister said this interview has embarrassed the entire nation. It did not behoove a former prime minister to talk thus about the country's sensitive program. It was also against her oath as prime minister.

100 Arrested in Islamabad for Unlawful Assembly

BK2212160092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly began discussion this evening on a motion condemning the demolition of the Babri mosque and killing of thousands of Muslims in India. A motion to this effect was introduced by Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, who said the demolition of the mosque by Hindu zealots has caused pain and anguish not only in Pakistan but also in the entire Muslim world. He said this great tragedy occurred due to the incompetence of the Indian Government, which caused great pain and anguish among the civilized people who respect the religious rights of the people of the entire world. He referred to various steps taken by the government to condemn the abominable act of the Hindu fanatics. These steps included the observance of a nationwide strike on 8 December. Aside from this, meetings were held with foreign envoys who were asked to urge their governments to pressure India to protect the Muslims and their religious places in that country.

Participating in the debate, Chaudhary Altaf Hussain of the People's Democratic Alliance called upon the government to adopt a strong outlook in this regard to mobilize public opinion both within and outside the country.

Hamza of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad strongly criticized the opposition party, saying that the opposition did not cooperate with the government in evolving a joint strategy on the Babri mosque issue. Liaqat Baloch of the Jamaat-i-Islami described the demolition of the mosque as a tragedy, recalled the history of the mosque, and stated that the Indian Supreme Court and high courts and several commissions inquiring into the issue never backed Hindus' claims over the mosque. He called for raising this issue effectively at international level, especially at the Islamic Conference Organization, so as to check such acts against Indian Muslims.

Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, the minister for petroleum and natural resources and prime minister's special assistant; told the National Assembly that the Islamabad police arrested about 100 people for violation of Section 144 [banning assembly of more than four persons at a place] this morning. He said the government has decided to release them immediately as a goodwill gesture. He stated this in response to a point of order raised by some members of the People's Democratic Alliance.

Spokesman Rejects Indian 'State Terrorism' Charge

BK2312092892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has described the statement by R.L. Bhatia, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he accused Pakistan of resorting to state terrorism against minorities after the demolition of the Babri mosque as unwarranted. The spokesman said that instead of taking steps to reconstruct the Babri mosque as promised by the Indian prime minister and effectively protect the lives and properties and religious places of Muslims in India, the Indian authorities are putting all their energy toward maligning Pakistan.

The spokesman said that the Government of Pakistan has already regretted the damage caused to some Hindu temples in Pakistan after the Babri mosque incident. He said that apart from filing criminal cases against the miscreants, the government has taken effective steps for the protection of lives and property and religious places of minorities throughout the country and made some arrests as well. Reiterating Pakistan's policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, the spokesman said that the demolition of the Babri mosque constitutes a violation of the human rights of Indian Muslims and the instantaneous reaction of Muslims in the Indian subcontinent and throughout the world is nothing but natural.

Minister Urges Holy War Over Mosque Destruction

BK2312115492 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMs... in English 23 Dec 92 p 14

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 22—Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi has said Jihad [holy war] has become obligatory on Pakistan in the wake of brutal killings of innocent Muslims by the Indian troops and the recent Babri Masjid [mosque] tragedy.

Taking part in the debate on Babri Masjid issue initiated in the National Assembly this evening he said the Indian secularism has proved to be a hoax and her real face stands exposed before the world.

He stressed the dire need for awakening the world conscience on the tragic incident of Babri Masjid's demolition but he made it clear that the people of Pakistan ought to gather at a platform (Sinking) their differences before initiating efforts to mobilise world opinion.

He supported the suggestion floated by Liaquat Baloch that Pakistan should sever diplomatic and economic ties with India.

Paper Views Prime Minister's Visit to Japan

BK2012123192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Dec 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Pakistan Focus on Tokyo"]

[Text] Looking back on Prime Minister [PM] Nawaz Sharif's official visit to Japan one finds a mix of several shades in the picture. There is no doubt that Mr Nawaz Sharif was batting for Pakistan and he tried his very best. His gifts of salesmanship were deployed to the full in the endeavour to convince the Japanese investors that Pakistan offered ideal conditions. His emphasis on the fact that Pakistan's economy is now going to be the freest in the world cannot be faulted seriously. Shorn of the public relations embellishments, reports from Tokyo seem to suggest that any jazzy celebration would be premature. We shall have to wait and see how good has the PM's visit been from the Japanese angle of vision. All investors are very cautious and hard-eyed people. When doing business, the genuine businessman means business. Admittedly, Mr Nawaz Sharif has striven valiantly to rid the economy of many stifling controls and a lot of bumbug has been shed. This would impress the investor and may even attract him. But the foreign investor is likely to remain skeptical if the freedom of economy is not adequately supported by other equally vital freedoms. The latter requirement is just as imperative as the former. And there may lurk the element which could become an inhibiting factor.

Political stability and freedom from uncertainty is what the investor—domestic as well as foreign—demands before he would take any decision. While the Prime Minister was talking to his counterpart in Tokyo, the President of Pakistan was delivering a thunderbolt. The latest from the presidential palace has been an exceedingly unsettling tremor. Reaction across the country has been one of extreme dismay and sorrow. On the one hand the prime minister is emancipating the country's economy and on the other the President is striking blow after blow on the freedoms of the country and the basic human rights of the people. Any prime minister riding a chariot with its two horses facing opposite directions would find himself in a nasty jam. What national purpose can the President be pursuing if whatever he does causes further erosion in the country's credibility abroad and the incumbent government's at home? Freedom of economy is significantly devalued if it is not backed by other freedoms which make for a healthy, robust, and stable society.

Mr Nawaz Sharif quite appropriately took pains to explain to his hosts the essential injustice in the United States' strident orchestration against what it perceives Pakistan's nuclear ambitions might be. The PM stood on very firm ground. One should hope that he succeeded in assisting the Japanese Prime Minister to separate the truth about Pakistan's position from the fiction and calumny promoted by certain quarters. Japan is an exceptionally good friend of Pakistan. It has been demonstrating this by the helpfulness and generosity which distinguish Tokyo as the biggest donor for Pakistan's economic development. It would be unrealistic, however, not to realise and budget for the fact that the United States wields no small weight in Tokyo. In order to keep Pak-Japan relations on sound and stable foundations, it is in our interest to leave Tokyo in no doubt about the quality of political life in the country. We must do our homework and do it well enough to earn universal appreciation. Let's not be slow to accept that much remains to be done, Mr Nawaz Sharif's emancipations of the economy notwithstanding.

Joint Shipping Firm Agreement Reached With Iran

BK1812153992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to establish a joint shipping company. This was stated by Azam Khan Hoti, minister of state for communications, at Karachi Airport on his return home from visits to Iran, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates today. He said that Pakistan is to establish 60 international channels in order to improve the existing telecommunication system and its telecommunication links with Iran. He said that during his meeting with Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Ali, the Islamic Development Bank President, in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan was assured of full cooperation in modernising the communication department in Karachi.

Defense Minister Says Iran Visit Successful

BK1912113992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, has said there is complete identity of views on regional and global issues between Pakistan and Iran. This he said in Rawalpindi today on his return after a week-long goodwill tour to Iran. He said the two sides exchanged views on regional peace and security, the recent demolition of the centuries-old Babri Masjid [mosque] in India, and massive human rights violations by Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah expressed his confidence that Iranian support on the Kashmir issue would certainly help Kashmiris in realization of their right of self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions. He said during his meetings with Iranian leaders it was agreed to explore new avenues of cooperation in the fields of economic development and to strengthen the Economic Cooperation Organization.

UAE Ambassador on Reasons For Expelling Nationals

BK2112101992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] (Muhammad Ahmad al-Mahmud), United Arab Emirate's ambassador to Pakistan, [name and title as heard] has said that only those people are being expelled from his country who do not have valid visas and who had participated in violent activities, thus breaking the Emirate's law. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad yesterday, he said the persons being expelled are not only from Pakistan. They are from other countries as well, he added. The ambassador said those who have valid visas and those who did not participate in demonstrations need not worry because no action would be taken against them. He said Pakistan-UAE ties are so strong that they cannot be affected by a single incident.

Daily Accuses Government of Surrendering to Clergy

BK2112103692 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Dec 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Ultimate Degradation of Politics"]

[Text] The Peshawar dialogue between the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] leaders Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Chaudhry Nisar on the one hand and Maulana Fazlur Rahman of JUI [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam] on the other, reported almost verbatim by two Lahore dailies on Sunday, gives a measure of what the politicians have reduced Pakistan politics to. The IJI complaint was related to JUI's attending the opposition APC [All Parties Conference] under the IJM [Islami Jahoori Mahaz, Islamic Democratic Front] umbrella together with JUP [Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan]. The IJI said it had introduced the 'religion card', not out of conviction, but to appease the clergy; and yet the Maulana 'joined up' with the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance]? Hadn't the IJI delivered on the Shariat [Islamic law] demand and 'Islamised' the country in accordance with the wishes of the clergy? Maulana's answer was that the Shariat Bill introduced by his party had not been adopted but had instead been 'substituted' by IJI's own version of the Shariat which was not acceptable to JUI.

The laws in Pakistan are changed, not because the ruling majority has any deep-seated conviction in its manifesto, but because it is politically convenient to 'carry' the clergy as a weapon against the parliamentary opposition. People in Pakistan suffer bad laws simply because our politicians have to wage their dishonourable battle under the guise of faith.

There is no doubt that humanity in Pakistan is being crushed only to enable these leaders to carry on their feuds. There is also no doubt that those who indulge in this dangerous play with religion demean themselves in the eyes of the world at large. The IJI has damaged the polity through 'insult' laws and the law on 'religion' card and caused an upheaval in inter- communal relations. Through other dishonourable compromise it has also damaged the national economy and the foreign policy of Pakistan. Its compromise on the Shariat Bill led to cleric alienation instead of the 'religious' front it wanted against the opposition. Its surrender of foreign policy to the clergy led to the fiasco in Afghanistan. The clergy nearly overthrew Mian Nawaz Sharif during the Afghan war. His religious affairs minister Maulana Niazi still defies decisions made in the cabinet, while the Jamaat-i-Islami has become his biggest foe on the streets. IJI's compromises have lost it control of Kashmir and Afghan policies; they have lost it the credibility of its economic reforms through the pending appeal against the abolition of bank-interest which federal minister Maulana Niazi openly supports. IJI doesn't know who the real foe is; it is blinded by its politics of hatred and revenge. When it finally blows out of power (whenever that is), Pakistan may not be a country worth living in even for IJI leaders.

Sri Lanka

Police Arrest Seven LTTE Militants in Colombo

BK2312123292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The Kandana police have arrested seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists, including a leader named Nathan Master who had come to Colombo from Kokkadicholai for [word indistinct] jewelers. A tip-off from a businessman led police to the jewelry shop at (Sea Street) in Colombo, where Nathan Master was polishing jewelry. The arrest led to taking into custody of five members of the gang at a kovil [Hindu temple] in (Sea Street) where they had taken refuge. They are reported to have worked under the LTTE explosive expert Ramanathan and undergone training in Kokkadicholai terrorist camp for the past four years. The seventh member of the gang was not at the kovil. He was on an intelligence-gathering mission at the time. But the police later tracked him down and arrested him at Puttalam. The arrested men are reported to have carried out attacks on police posts and army camps in Amparai, Batticaloa, Vellaveli, and Kokkadicholai areas and are responsible for many killings.